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TOP 500
STARS

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#1 **TRIPLE-H**
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OCTOBER 2009

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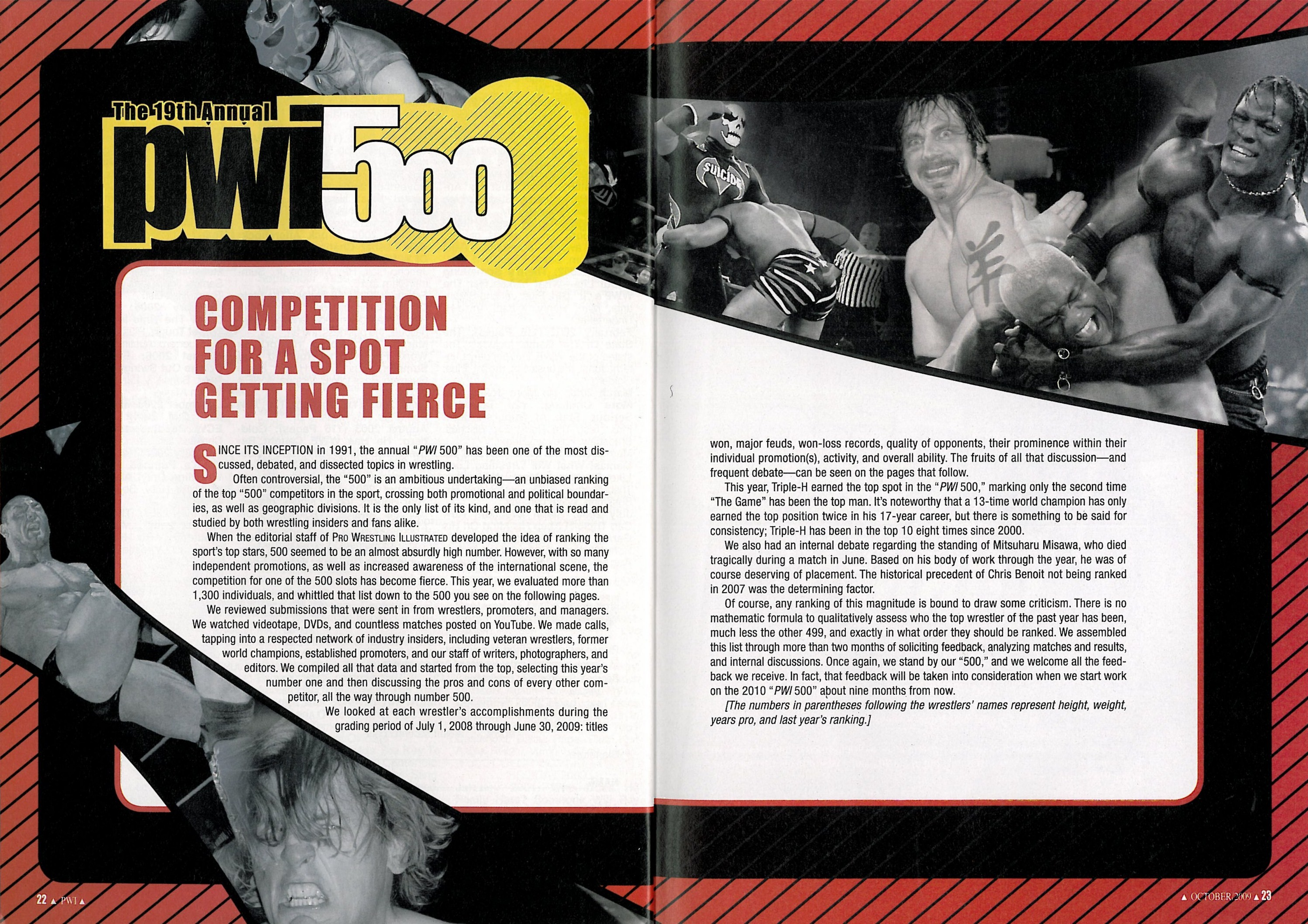
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Display Until Nov. 17

212	2 Cold Scorpio	375	Rasche Brown	168	Cody Deaner	116	Chavo Guerrero Jr.	151	Kiyoshi	471	Jon Moxley	488	Ryback	482	Matt Sydal
352	2 Dope	360	The Bruiser	276	Chase Del Monte	10	Ultimo Guerrero	185	Kizarney	15	Keiji Muto	199	Zach Ryder	38	Booker T
96	Abyss	227	Rey Bucanero	410	Colin Delaney	122	Charlie Haas	293	Dylan Klein	33	MVP	426	Andrew Ryker	486	Notorious T.I.D.
384	Trent Acid	333	Pat Buck	131	Delirious	243	Jason Hades	421	Joey Knight	26	Rey Mysterio Jr.	377	Sabian	146	Shingo Takagi
295	Acid Jazz	123	Paul Burchill	349	Bobby Dempsey	265	Hallowicked	415	Robin Knightwing	65	Yuji Nagata	52	Chris Sabin	166	Yujiro Takahashi
157	Afa Jr.	389	Matt Burns	287	Deranged	494	Barry Hardy	326	Dal Knox	161	Tetsuta Naito	396	Sabu	60	Yoshihiro Takayama
136	Perro Aguayo Jr.	117	Necro Butcher	251	Johnny Devine	13	Jeff Hardy	87	Mike Knox	226	Katsuhiko Nakajima	231	Ryoji Sai	7	Hiroshi Tanahashi
42	Jun Akiyama	238	Colt Cabana	174	Tommy Diablo	20	Matt Hardy	171	Kenta Kobashi	24	Shinsuke Nakamura	400	Benjamin Sailer	144	Masato Tanaka
253	Gran Akuma	371	Lance Cade	309	Brett DiBiase	197	Teddy Hart	211	Satoshi Kojima	69	Manabu Nakanishi	438	Sally Boy	186	Chuck Taylor
89	Brent Albright	194	Sami Callihan	209	Mike DiBiase	450	Danny Havoc	147	Konnar	459	Prince Nana	344	Jalil Salaam	437	Micah Taylor
312	Prince Mustafa Ali	331	Arik Cannon	44	Ted DiBiase Jr.	436	Havok	145	Alex Koslov	105	Kevin Nash	29	Samoa Joe	216	Tommy Taylor
355	Amasis	88	Dos Caras Jr.	133	Joe Doering	190	Curt Hawkins	458	Tony Kozina	479	Navajo Warrior	441	Pinkie Sanchez	139	Hiriyoshi Tenzan
153	Amazing Red	64	Carlito	128	Naruki Doi	477	Luke Hawx	53	Vladimir Kozlov	252	Bam Neely	490	Bobby Sanford	230	Rob Terry
285	C.W. Anderson	345	Obie Cartel	342	Tim Donst	119	Kaz Hayashi	327	Mike Kruel	413	Vance Nevada	54	Kensuke Sasaki	268	Texano Jr.
214	Karl Anderson	108	Negro Casas	249	Lince Dorado	261	Helios	275	Ricky Landell	258	Nicho	465	Byron Saxton	387	Antonio Thomas
294	Arrick Andrews	67	Claudio Castagnoli	308	Danny Doring	193	Hurricane Helms	399	Jerry Lawler	263	Mr. Niebla	234	Daisuke Sekimoto	429	Brandon Thomaselli
447	Angel	305	Hurricane Castillo	316	Andy Douglas	221	Joe Hennig	406	Leslie Leatherman	267	Osamu Nishimura	292	Shane Sewell	301	Tommy Thunda
12	Kurt Angle	3	John Cena	104	Tommy Dreamer	45	Mark Henry	218	Brodie Lee	126	Jaime Noble	381	Sexxy Eddy	332	Thunder
306	APOC	467	Cha Cha Chance	388	Jim Duggan	66	Hernandez	83	Jay Lethal	433	Jake O'Reilly	321	Shark Boy	103	Tiger Mask IV
195	Lance Archer	270	Aden Chambers	149	Sonjay Dutt	70	Chris Hero	484	Chris Lexxus	442	Jimmy Olsen	239	Phil Shatter	106	Rhett Titus
23	Austin Aries	428	Kory Chavis	98	Tyson Dux	269	Ikuto Hidaka	351	Joe Lider	318	Kenny Omega	94	Sheamus	339	Tank Toland
368	Alex Arion	369	Cheech	473	Johnny Dynamo	228	El Hijo del Santo	315	Jushin Liger	357	Ophidian	424	The Sheik	205	Tomko
379	Asylum	75	Chessman	319	Dysfunction	152	Jethro Holiday	335	Lightning	129	Ricky Ortiz	32	Alex Shelley	1	Triple-H
183	Atlantis	361	Mason Childs	386	Dan Eckos	79	Homicide	313	Vaughn Lilas	5	Randy Orton	120	Go Shiozaki	423	Tommy Trouble
405	Phil Atlas	262	Riki Choshu	176	Rob Eckos	341	BxB Hulk	446	Brandon Locke	284	Glen Osbourne	283	Shocker	439	Hiram Tua
334	Atomic Dogg	28	Christian	4	Edge	179	Human Tornado	279	Matt Logan	204	Shinjiro Otani	500	Shockwave	101	Umaga
325	Brad Attitude	475	Shawn Christopher	92	Eddie Edwards	264	Icarus	288	Bryan Logan	137	PAC	307	Silver King	11	Undertaker
110	Averno	286	Francisco Ciatso	254	Electroshock	403	Iceberg	162	Paul London	350	Ethan Page	343	Damien Slater	160	Volador Jr.
435	Azrieal	121	Cibernetico	170	El Elegido	290	A.J. Istria	222	Scott Lost	430	Papadon	192	Sebastian Slater	213	Vampiro
273	Sangre Azteca	114	CIMA	346	Michael Elgin	142	Ezekiel Jackson	40	Jerry Lynn	109	La Parka	452	Slim J	365	Val Venis
245	B.J.	380	Cloudy	78	Eric Escobar	336	Harley Jackson	208	Mr. Mac	248	Pepper Parks	115	Bison Smith	483	Josef Von Schmidt
206	B-Boy	274	Cobian	445	Brandon Espinosa	229	Matt Jackson	408	Kirby Mack	51	Adam Pearce	130	David Harry Smith	57	Dr. Wagner Jr.
391	Nate Bash	244	Milano Collection A.T.	167	Jack Evans	235	Nick Jackson	416	T.J. Mack	356	T.J. Perkins	256	Al Snow	363	Keith Walker
85	Sheik Abdul Bashir	215	Chad Collyer	460	Eric Everlast	50	Jimmy Jacobs	474	Dan Maff	364	Madman Pondo	150	Sim Snuka	330	Sean Waltman
16	Batista	158	Orlando Colon	370	Falah	382	B.G. James	173	Brutus Magnus	271	Josh Prohibition	191	Sombra	169	Jimmy Wang Yang
348	Max Bauer	76	Primo Colon	461	Ron Falco	21	Jeff Jarrett	322	Mahoney	453	Chance Prophet	200	Shawn Spears	456	Way Cool
187	Billy Bax	298	El Commandante	385	Egotistico Fantastico	470	Jamie Jay	297	Togi Makabe	412	Jonny Puma	402	Greg Spitz	310	Nate Webb
489	Peter B. Beautiful	324	Ric Converse	138	Festus	493	Brian Jennings	491	Marc Mandrake	8	C.M. Punk	397	Zaquary Springate III	140	B.J. Whitmer
31	Shelton Benjamin	401	Darrin Corbin	311	Truitt Fields	2	Chris Jericho	97	Santino Marella	247	Mike Quackenbush	241	Chicky Starr	454	Wildside
451	Trent Beretta	84	Steve Corino	47	Finlay	165	Jesse	409	Brad Martin	80	R-Truth	466	Robby Starr	134	Doug Williams
366	Nick Berk	487	Diego Corleone	280	Bobby Fish	314	Jigsaw	91	Naomichi Marufuji	378	Chasyn Rance	259	Ace Steele	499	Lawman Williams
154	Giant Bernard	124	Marco Corleone	347	Flash Flanagan	353	Victor Jovica	362	Las Mascara	181	Jimmy Rave	468	Ken Steel	102	Petey Williams
25	The Big Show	496	Crazy Steve	481	J.T. Flash	90	JTG	480	Mastiff	302	Grizzly Redwood	112	Kevin Steen	444	Jeremy Wyatt
17	Tyler Black	358	Creed	34	Mick Foley	498	Mikal Judas	320	J.D. Maverick	317	Mike Reed	71	Scott Steiner	376	Shiima Xion
289	Ultramantis Black	93	Consequences Creed	414	Freak Nasty	367	Kafu	232	Robby McAllister	41	William Regal	328	Chase Stevens	448	Xtremo
250	Jason Blade	177	Matt Cross	418	Frederick of Hollywood	338	Kahagas	225	Rory McAllister	156	Tyler Reks	127	Erick Stevens	299	Toru Yano
22	Blue Demon	411	Ryan Cruz	189	Rick Fuller	431	King Kaluha	395	Ryan McBride	246	Ricky Reyes	164	Idol Stevens	266	Christian York
99	Blue Panther	159	Johnny Curtis	390	Kung Funaki	37	Kane	398	John McChesney	68	Rhino	9	Sting	219	Yoshitatsu
440	Jon Bolen	304	Cute Kip	182	D.J. Gabriel	337	Yoshinobu Kanemaru	6	Nigel McGuinness	48	Cody Rhodes	207	Alan Stone	372	David Young
472	Hook Bomberry	281	Brandon Cutler	217	Nick Gage	260	Johnny Kashmere	125	Drew McIntyre	77	Davey Richards	135	Martin Stone	72	Eric Young
359	The Boogeyman	291	Dustin Cutler	383	G.Q. Gallo	198	Kaval	469	Mega	237	Stevie Richards	184	Devon Storm	427	Silas Young
63	Evan Bourne	462	Jon Cutler	148	Hector Garza	242	Taiyo Kea	407	Mark Mercedes	373	Sal Rinauro	59	James Storm	178	Drake Younger
495	Matt Boyce	277	Brain Damage	95	Shad Gaspard	296	Sterling James Keenan	39	Mesias	497	Matt Riviera	449	Tim Storm	443	Z-Barr
354	Steve Boz	58	Daniels	163	El Generico	62	Brian Kendrick	14	Shawn Michaels	457	Cpl. Robinson	417	The Stro	492	Larry Zbyszko
300	Ryan Braddock	394	Danny Daniels	303	Vin Gerard	419	Conrad Kennedy III	36	Mistico	422	Big Rocco	61	Roderick Strong	113	Dolph Ziggler
434	John E. Bravo	278	Josh Daniels	180	Goldust	74	KENTA	56	The Miz	374	Ace Rockwell	19	A.J. Styles	224	Zodiac
464	Igotta Brewski	27	Bryan Danielson	155	Ray Gonzalez	118	The Great Khali	282	Masaaki Mochizuki	141	Rocky Romero	272	Tommy Suede	233	Zokre
81	Jay Briscoe	236	Dark Ozz	82	Hirooki Goto	240	Kid Kash	223	Mike Mondo	55	Robert Roode	30	Suicide	143	Zorro
107	Mark Briscoe	340	Maverick Darsow	420	Zach Gowan	73	Tyson Kidd	188	Shannon Mpire	478	Romeo Rosselli	220	Super Crazy		
255	El Bronco	432	John Davis	392	Kevin Grace	323	King V	393	Chris Mordetzky	404	Sean Royal	329	Super Hentai		
49	Brother D-Von	463	Phil Davis	210	Christopher Gray	202	Kenny King	86	Matt Morgan	203	Ruckus	132	Suwama		
43	Brother Ray	455	Sean Davis	425	Grim Reefer	257	Eddie Kingston	100	Takeshi Morishima	476	Donovan Ruddick	111	Minoru Suzuki		
201	D-Lo Brown	196	TriK Davis	172	Juventud Guerrera	35	Kofi Kingston	46	John Morrison	175	Joey Ryan	18	Jack Swaggar		



The 19th Annual **PWI 500**

COMPETITION FOR A SPOT GETTING FIERCE

SINCE ITS INCEPTION in 1991, the annual "PWI 500" has been one of the most discussed, debated, and dissected topics in wrestling.

Often controversial, the "500" is an ambitious undertaking—an unbiased ranking of the top "500" competitors in the sport, crossing both promotional and political boundaries, as well as geographic divisions. It is the only list of its kind, and one that is read and studied by both wrestling insiders and fans alike.

When the editorial staff of Pro Wrestling Illustrated developed the idea of ranking the sport's top stars, 500 seemed to be an almost absurdly high number. However, with so many independent promotions, as well as increased awareness of the international scene, the competition for one of the 500 slots has become fierce. This year, we evaluated more than 1,300 individuals, and whittled that list down to the 500 you see on the following pages.

We reviewed submissions that were sent in from wrestlers, promoters, and managers. We watched videotape, DVDs, and countless matches posted on YouTube. We made calls, tapping into a respected network of industry insiders, including veteran wrestlers, former world champions, established promoters, and our staff of writers, photographers, and editors. We compiled all that data and started from the top, selecting this year's number one and then discussing the pros and cons of every other competitor, all the way through number 500.

We looked at each wrestler's accomplishments during the grading period of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009: titles

won, major feuds, won-loss records, quality of opponents, their prominence within their individual promotion(s), activity, and overall ability. The fruits of all that discussion—and frequent debate—can be seen on the pages that follow.

This year, Triple-H earned the top spot in the "PWI 500," marking only the second time "The Game" has been the top man. It's noteworthy that a 13-time world champion has only earned the top position twice in his 17-year career, but there is something to be said for consistency; Triple-H has been in the top 10 eight times since 2000.

We also had an internal debate regarding the standing of Mitsuharu Misawa, who died tragically during a match in June. Based on his body of work through the year, he was of course deserving of placement. The historical precedent of Chris Benoit not being ranked in 2007 was the determining factor.

Of course, any ranking of this magnitude is bound to draw some criticism. There is no mathematic formula to qualitatively assess who the top wrestler of the past year has been, much less the other 499, and exactly in what order they should be ranked. We assembled this list through more than two months of soliciting feedback, analyzing matches and results, and internal discussions. Once again, we stand by our "500," and we welcome all the feedback we receive. In fact, that feedback will be taken into consideration when we start work on the 2010 "PWI 500" about nine months from now.

[The numbers in parentheses following the wrestlers' names represent height, weight, years pro, and last year's ranking.]

pwi500

1 TRIPLE-H

(6'4", 260, 17, 3)

PATH TO NUMBER 1:

225 in 1994, 84 in 1995, 79 in 1996, 31 in 1997, 14 in 1998, 26 in 1999, 1 in 2000, 6 in 2001, 10 in 2002, 2 in 2003, 3 in 2004, 4 in 2005, 21 in 2006, 51 in 2007, 3 in 2008

TOP FIVE MOMENTS OF THE YEAR:

1. Captured his 13th world title by winning a six-man Elimination Chamber match at No Way Out 2009.
2. Defended his title—and the McMahon family name—against Randy Orton in the main event of WrestleMania 25.
3. Beat the odds to retain the WWE title against Brian Kendrick, Montel Vontavious Porter, Shelton Benjamin, and Jeff Hardy in a scramble match at Unforgiven 2009.
4. Defeated the imposing Great Khali to keep the WWE title at SummerSlam 2008.
5. Narrowly defeated Jeff Hardy to hold on to the WWE title at No Mercy 2009.

WHY HE'S NUMBER 1:

After nine years, the self-proclaimed "King Of Kings" reclaims his throne atop the "PWI 500" ... In a year in which WWE's two world titles were treated like hot potatoes, Triple-H provided a measure of stability to the WWE championship, which he wore for nine months of the 12-month grading period ... During that time, Triple-H not only won some big matches—but did so against some

huge odds ... Such was the case at Unforgiven's world title five-man scramble

match, in which he scored a necessary pinfall on Jeff Hardy in the match's closing seconds to retain his title, and also when he won a six-man Elimination Chamber match in February ... Even more impressive, Triple-H achieved much of his dominance in the unfamiliar territory of the Smackdown brand, to which he was drafted in June of 2008 ... There he faced the likes of Vladimir Kozlov, Big Show, and Undertaker ... Spent much of the first half of 2009 embroiled in an intensely personal grudge with Randy Orton and scored one of the most satisfying victories of his career when he beat Orton at WrestleMania 25 ... Capable of out-wrestling, out-brawling, and out-lasting most of his competition ... And never forget the Pedigree.

WHERE HE'S HEADED:

Triple-H returned to action to reclaim the number-one contender's spot after being sidelined for an extended period after losing his title to Randy Orton in a six-man tag team match at Backlash. Although Triple-H was punt-kicked in the head by Orton at the conclusion of the match, it's a safe bet that his hiatus had as much to do with the psychological harm Orton caused him as it did the physical harm. Few wrestlers have gotten into the head of "The Cerebral Assassin" like Orton, and it's a vulnerability Triple-H can't afford. If Triple-H wants to return to the top spot here—or even come close—he needs to rediscover his mean streak. The fact is, throughout his career Triple-H has been most effective when he has looked out solely for his own interests, and not when he's tried to play the role of the doting family man. Having gone public with the fact that he's married to Stephanie McMahon and, therefore, the son-in-law of WWE Chairman Vince McMahon, Triple-H has been forced as of late to consider such factors as family honor during his matches. While such things might motivate the average man, they can be distractions to a workhorse like Triple-H.

Photo by Steve Beyer



pwi 500

2 CHRIS JERICO

(6', 226, 19, 29)

PATH TO NUMBER 2:

42 in 1996, 26 in 1997, 10 in 1998, 29 in 1999, 9 in 2000, 9 in 2001, 4 in 2002, 5 in 2003, 10 in 2004, 25 in 2005, 29 in 2008

TOP FIVE MOMENTS OF THE YEAR:

1. Came back from a loss to Shawn Michaels to win the World title from C.M. Punk (who was kayoed by Legacy) in a scramble match at Unforgiven 2008.

2. Recaptured the World title—eight days after losing it to Batista at Cyber Sunday—in a steel cage match on *Raw*, to become a five-time world champion.

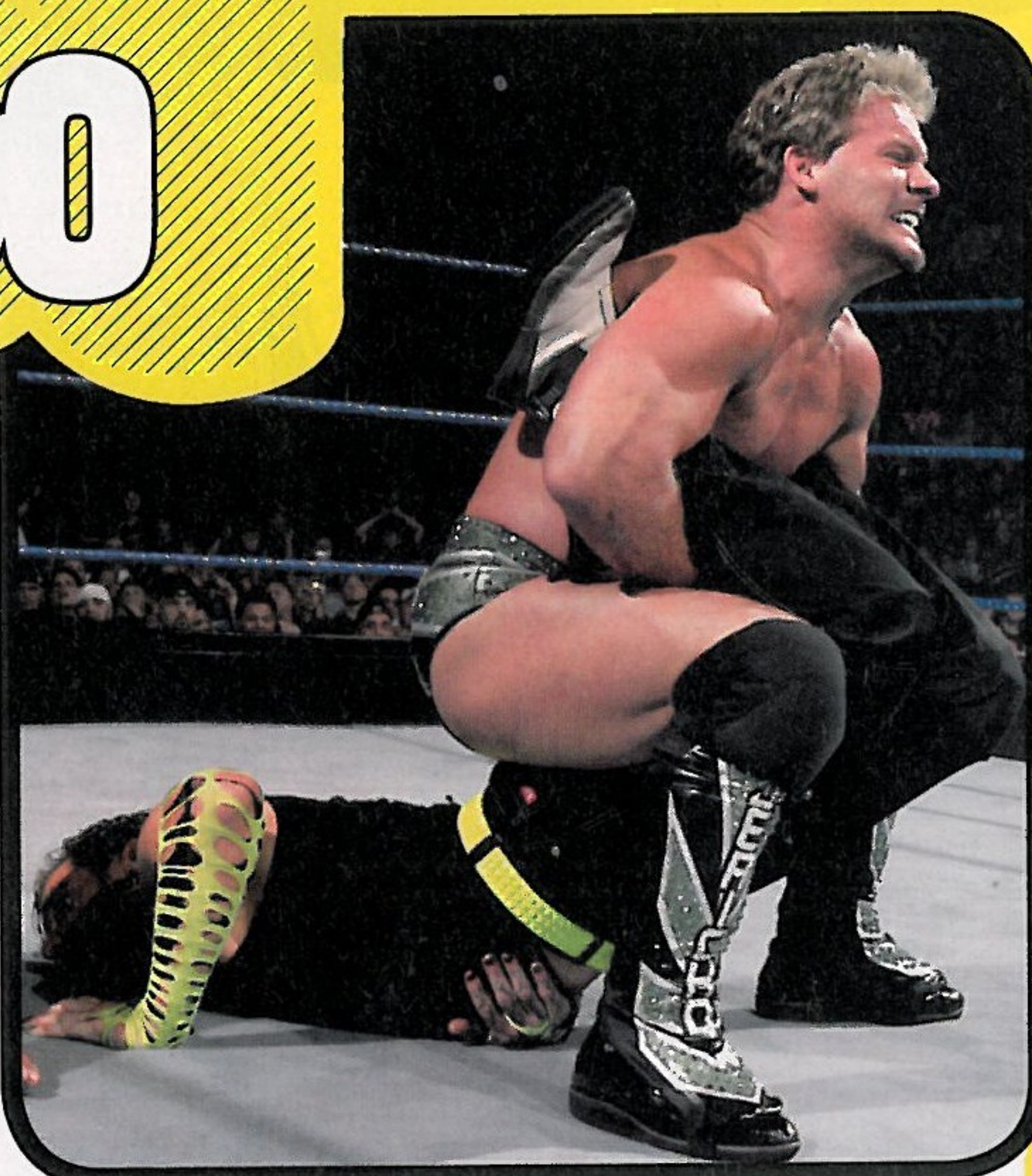
3. Retained the World championship in a grueling ladder match against arch-rival Shawn Michaels at No Mercy 2008.

4. Beat Rey Mysterio Jr. in a no holds barred match for the Intercontinental title at Extreme Rules on June 7.

5. Took on and defeated WWE legends Rick Steamboat, Roddy Piper, and Jimmy Snuka in a three-on-one elimination match at WrestleMania 25.

WHY HE'S NUMBER 2:

Love him or hate him—and if you're the average WWE fan, it's likely the latter—it's hard to dispute that Chris Jericho has been one of the most effective performers in all of wrestling over the last year ... After having something of a false start in his late-2007 comeback following a two-year hiatus, reinvented himself and tapped into a newfound passion and focus for his career in 2008 ... Had a wrestling rivalry for the ages against Shawn Michaels, and during that nine-month span exhibited the very best creativity, believability, athleticism, and passion the sport had to offer ... Came up victorious in many of his matches against Michaels, including their final televised last-man-standing match in the UK in November ... Picked up two world titles along the way, and won a number of grueling matches, including cage matches against Batista and C.M. Punk ... Was "fired" by Stephanie McMahon, but re-hired a week later ... As he did with Michaels, Jericho treated his subsequent rivalries with John Cena, WWE's "Legends," and Rey Mysterio Jr. as more than



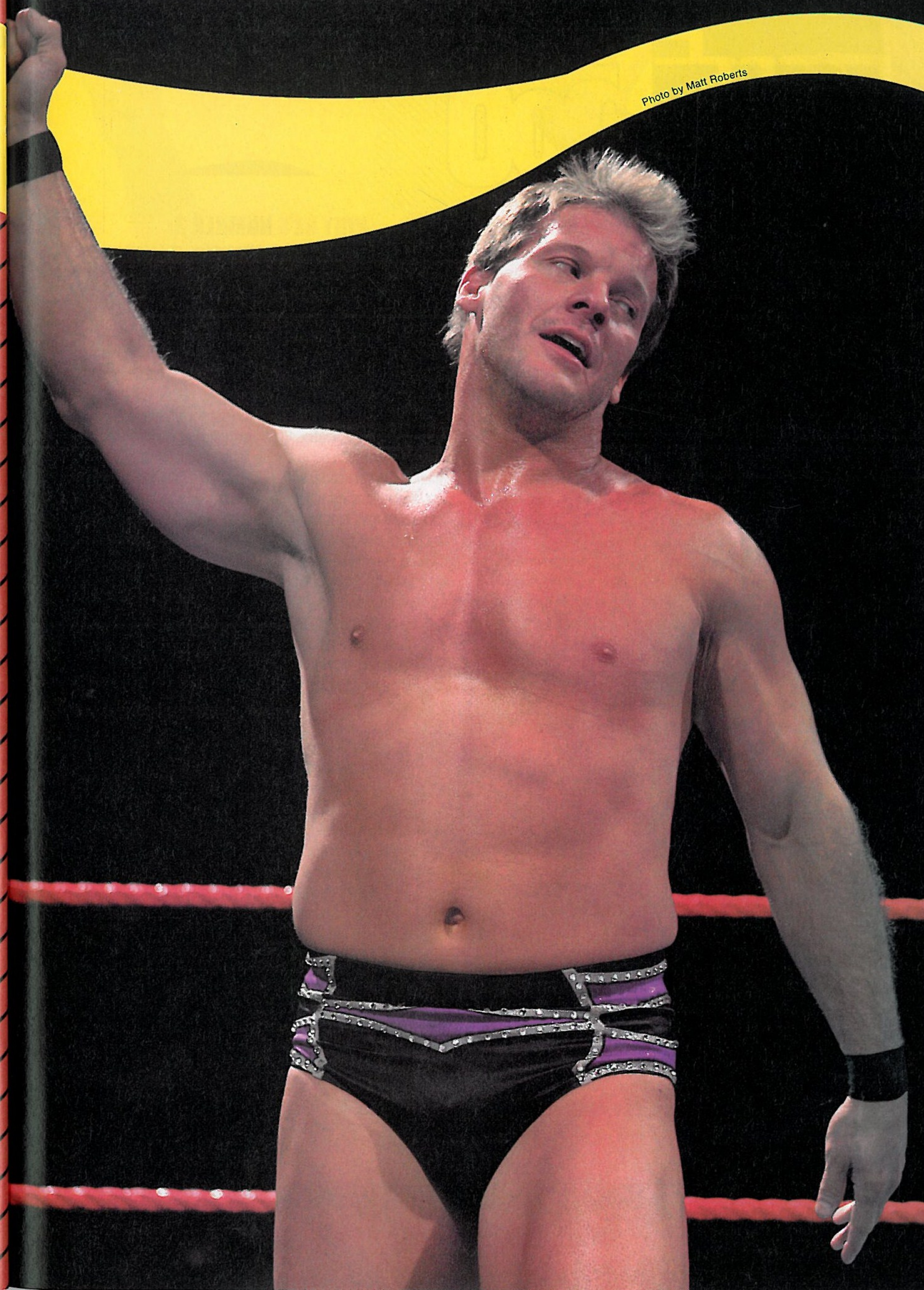
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just wrestling grudges, but rather crusades against hypocrisy ... Don't dare call him "Y2J" ever again.

WHERE HE'S HEADED:

They say misery loves company. In Jericho's case, the miserable outlook on life that he's displayed over the past year-plus has brought him the "company" of two world title belts and a rejuvenated career. Indeed, Jericho's contempt for fans, fellow wrestlers—and even movie stars—has fueled the resurgence he's experienced after nearly two decades in the sport. But while it is hard to argue with results, Jericho needs to focus on more than just exposing his opponents as "hypocrites" if he wants to make the most of his talents. He needs to focus on world championships. In his new home on the Smackdown brand, the sky is the limit for Jericho, who is well-matched against opponents such as Jeff Hardy, Mysterio, and C.M. Punk. Jericho's future in wrestling may also hinge on his interests outside of it. Jericho's two-year-plus sabbatical from WWE was driven by his goal to conquer other forms of entertainment, including television and music. Even since his return, Jericho has kept busy outside the ring as host of the *Redemption Song* reality show and with the release of a new album from his band, Fozzy. As despicable as he might be sometimes, the wrestling world would be a much duller place without Chris Jericho around. Here's hoping his mission to fight "injustice" in wrestling lasts a while.

Photo by Matt Roberts



pWI 500

3 JOHN CENA

(6'3", 260, 9, 9)

PATH TO NUMBER 3:

281 in 2001, 46 in 2002, 12 in 2003, 7 in 2004, 2 in 2005, 1 in 2006, 1 in 2007, 9 in 2008

TOP FIVE MOMENTS OF THE YEAR:

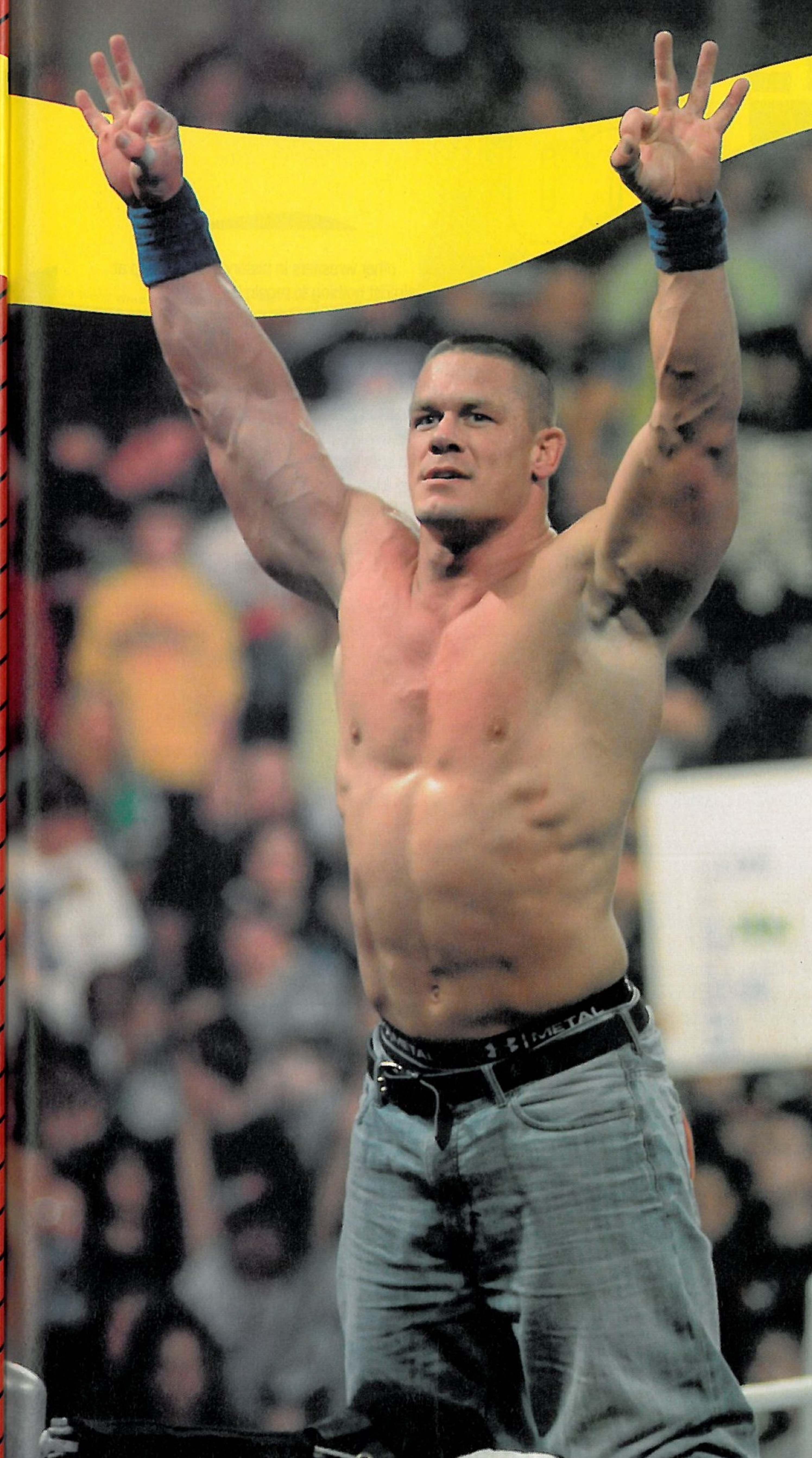
1. Captured the WWE World championship in his first match after a three-month injury hiatus by beating Chris Jericho at the 2008 Survivor Series.
2. Won the WWE World championship again when he beat champion Edge and Big Show in a triple threat match at WrestleMania 25.
3. Pinned John Bradshaw Layfield to retain the WWE World title at the 2009 Royal Rumble.
4. Successfully defended the World championship in a rematch against Chris Jericho at 2008's Armageddon.
5. Defeated Big Show after hoisting the mighty giant on his shoulders and delivering his Attitude Adjuster finisher at Judgment Day 2009.

WHY HE'S NUMBER 3:

After a stop-and-go 12 months leading up to last year's "PWI 500," WWE's top star has regained much of his past momentum ... Got off to a rocky start early in the grading period by losing key matches to John Bradshaw Layfield and Batista, and then going down with an injury that sidelined him for three months ... With plenty of fanfare, made his return to the ring at the Survivor Series, where he won his first world title in more than a year by defeating Chris Jericho ... Defended the World title successfully for three months before losing it in an Elimination Chamber match at No Way Out ... His fifth world title reign began six weeks later at WrestleMania 25 and lasted until he lost the title again to Edge in a last-man-standing match at Backlash in which Big Show chokeslammed him through a giant search light fastened to the ramp ... Although his dominance over the Raw singles division may have waned since his 2006-2007 title reigns, his popularity most certainly has not ... Cena remains WWE's biggest individual draw—capable of driving up TV ratings or live attendance simply by having his appearance advertised ... Fighting heart matched only by his unparalleled strength, which has allowed him to heave even the biggest opponents on to his shoulders for his Attitude Adjuster.

WHERE HE'S HEADED:

With WWE committed to targeting a young demographic, the ultra-popular Cena's star is likely to burn only hotter and brighter in the coming months and years. After being dogged by adult male fans in many arenas, Cena's booing section has quieted down considerably over the past year, indicating that Cena has won over many of his naysayers by practicing what he preaches—hustle, loyalty, and respect. But Cena cannot be content simply to get the loudest cheers or sell the most merchandise at arenas. His last title reign lasted just three weeks, so Cena needs to rededicate himself not only to winning world championship gold, but holding on to it. That could be especially tough on the Raw brand, which includes not only some of his most formidable past enemies, like the Big Show, Triple-H, and Shawn Michaels, but also several rising stars who would like nothing more than to make a name for themselves by beating Cena (*See: The Miz*). Another threat to Cena's future success in the ring: the bright lights of Hollywood.



PWI 500

4 EDGE

(6'4", 240, 17, 5)

PATH TO NUMBER 4:

254 in 1997, 67 in 1998, 83 in 1999, 51 in 2000, 20 in 2001, 7 in 2002, 34 in 2003, 59 in 2004, 8 in 2005, 3 in 2006, 2 in 2007, 5 in 2008

TOP FIVE MOMENTS OF THE YEAR:

1. Won his sixth world title after he was named the impromptu substitute for Jeff Hardy in a triple threat match against Triple-H and Vladimir Kozlov at Survivor Series.
2. Captured his seventh world title when he defeated WWE champion Jeff Hardy in a no-DQ match at the 2009 Royal Rumble.
3. Secured his eighth world title when he interjected himself in the Elimination Chamber match for the WWE World championship at No Way Out.
4. Won his ninth world title when—with the help of Big Show—he defeated John Cena in a last-man-standing match at Backlash.
5. Retained his WWE World championship against Jeff Hardy at Judgment Day.

WHY HE'S NUMBER 4:

WWE's "Ultimate Opportunist" made the most of several opportunities over the past year and captured an unprecedented five world titles in the span of 12 months—a WWE record ... He did so by beating many of the sport's top names, including The Undertaker, Triple-H, Jeff Hardy, and John Cena ... Of course, Edge has had plenty of help along the way, especially from his former wife, Vickie Guerrero, who, as Smackdown general manager, pulled just about every string imaginable to help her one-time beau come out on top ... But while Edge may have employed some assistance in getting the doors to open a crack, it was the "Rated R Superstar" who kicked those doors open, overcoming big odds to win some tough matches—including the WWE World championship Elimination Chamber match, which was the second such bout he wrestled in a single night ... For all his sneaky ways, Edge has shown tremendous courage in the past year, including in his torturous Hell in a Cell battle with The Undertaker at SummerSlam 2008 ... Though he dropped the World title to Jeff Hardy at Extreme Rules who immediately lost it to C.M. Punk, Edge craves world championship fulfillment like few

other wrestlers in history, and will stop at almost nothing to regain it.

WHERE HE'S HEADED:

With nine world titles on his resumé, Edge's track record may suggest that whatever he's doing is working. But Edge should be wary of becoming overdependent on his shortcuts. Every one of his five world title victories since June of 2008 have come with some assistance, whether it be from outside assistance from Matt Hardy or The Big Show, or some big-time rule-bending from Vickie Guerrero. With Vickie leaving the company and Chavo Guerrero Jr. recently shifting over to Raw, Edge suddenly finds himself with no allies, and a long line of challengers. Lucky for Edge, he is in the rare position of having the size advantage over most of his likely opponents, including current champion C.M. Punk, Rey Mysterio Jr., Chris Jericho, and Jeff Hardy. Lest anyone forget, waiting in the wings on the blue brand for his inevitable next title shot is The Undertaker. The last time Edge saw UT, he was looking up from a flaming crater inside the ring, when 'Taker sent him to "Hell" at SummerSlam 2008. Edge is also likely on a collision course with his former partner in crime, Christian. Despite his tainted wins, no one should question the ability of Edge, who was being heralded as a future world champion more than a decade ago.

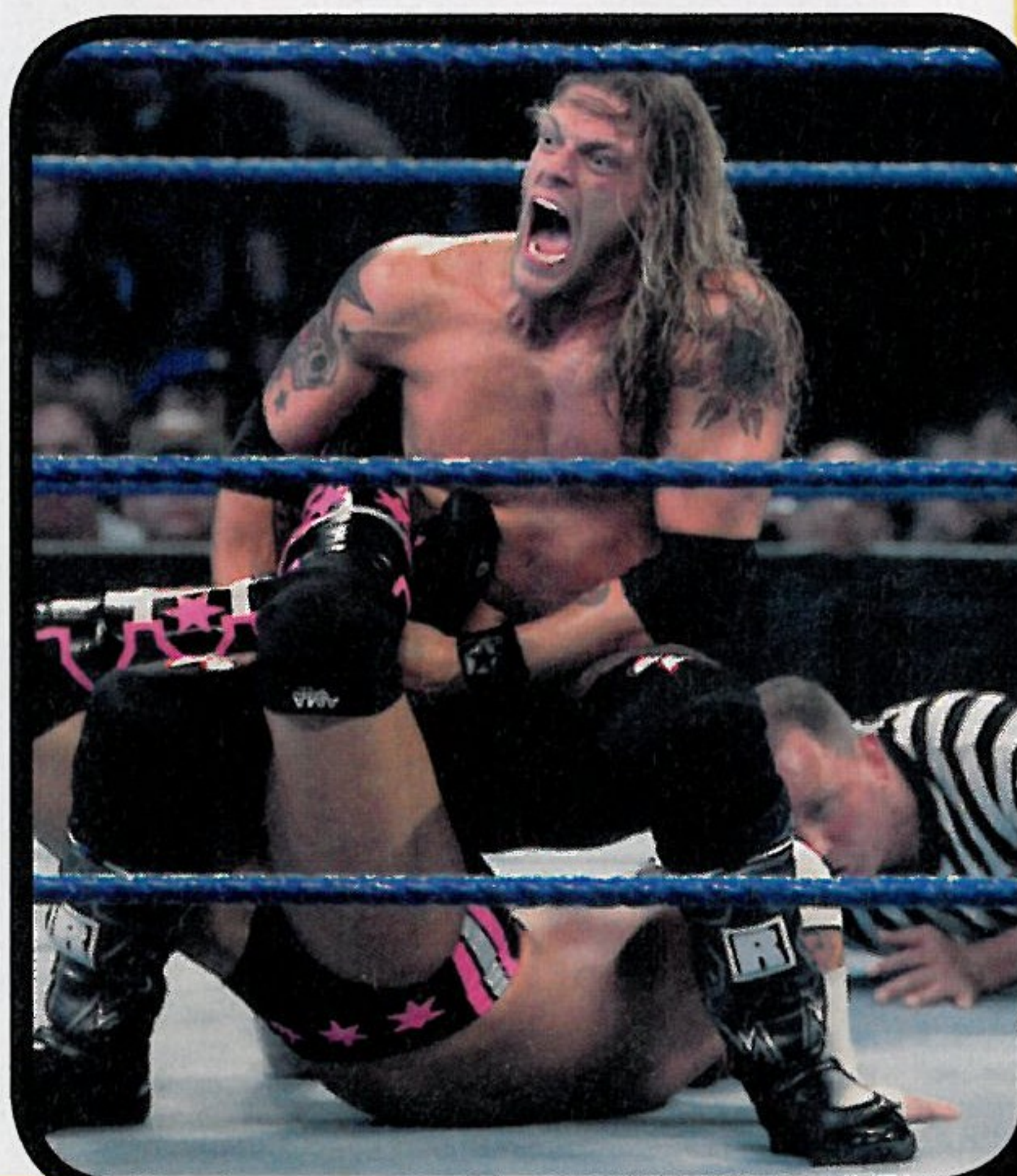
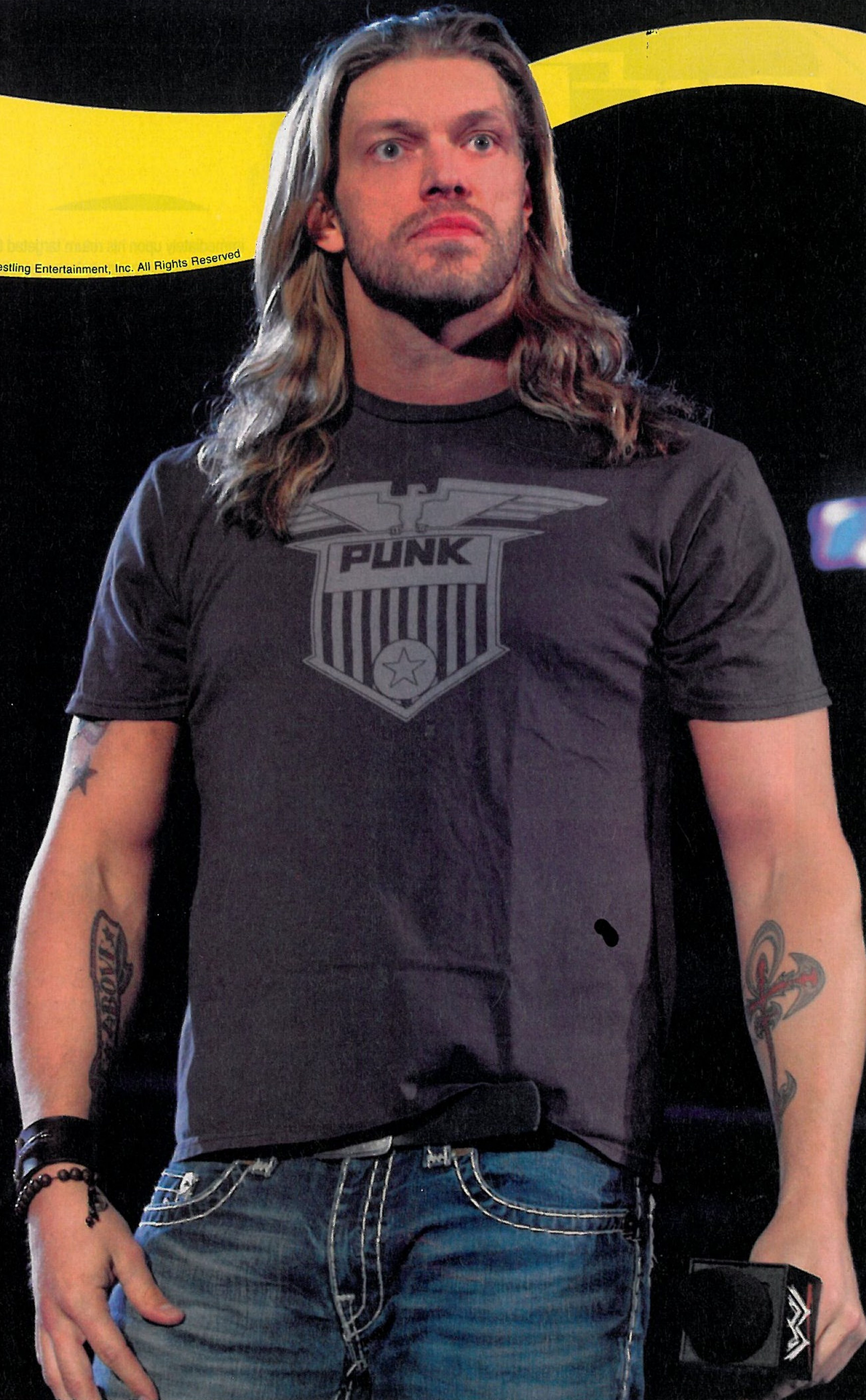


Photo by George Napolitano

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pWI 500

5 RANDY ORTON (6'4", 245, 9, 1)

PATH TO NUMBER 5:

217 in 2001, 33 in 2002, 63 in 2003, 4 in 2004, 29 in 2005, 30 in 2006, 15 in 2007, 1 in 2008

TOP FIVE MOMENTS OF THE YEAR:

1. Pinned WWE champion Triple-H in a six-man tag team match that also included Cody Rhodes, Ted DiBiase Jr., Batista, and Shane McMahon to capture his fourth world title.
2. Won the 2009 Royal Rumble, entering at number eight and outlasting 29 other men.
3. Formed Legacy—a powerful stable of second- and third-generation wrestlers that have run roughshod over WWE competition since the fall of 2008.
4. Beat Shane McMahon in a grueling no-holds-barred match at No Way Out 2009.
5. Delivered an infamous knockout punt to the head of WWE Chairman Vince McMahon on *Raw*.

WHY HE'S NUMBER 5:

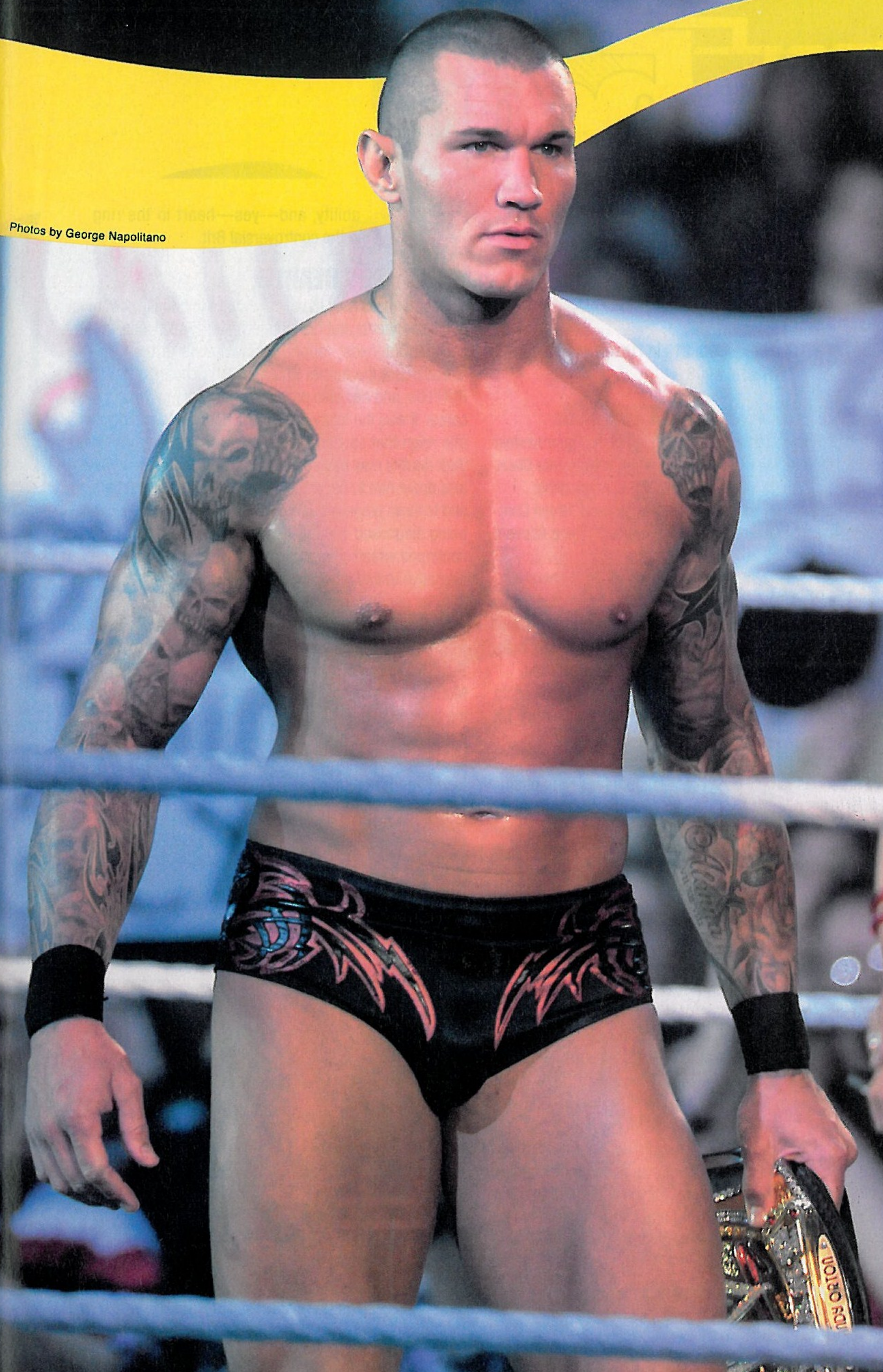
Has emerged as more than just a legitimate top star in wrestling, but a true leader and mastermind in the sport—and he's not yet 30 ... Missed most of the first half of the grading period while rehabbing an injury, but more than made up for his missed ring time in the second half ... Almost

immediately upon his return targeted the most intimidating opponent any wrestler has ever faced—the entire McMahon family ... With a sociopathic disregard for his own career, physically assaulted nearly every member of wrestling's first family, including Vince McMahon, whom Orton punt-kicked in the head in January ... Has blamed his violent outbursts on Intermittent Explosive Disorder ... There has most certainly been a method to Orton's madness, as his actions have served only to goad the McMahons into making questionable decisions with hopes of getting revenge on Orton ... Those decisions eventually gave Orton the opening to win his fourth world title ... Helping Orton achieve his dominance have been Legacy members Ted DiBiase Jr. and Cody Rhodes, who have followed Orton much like cult members follow their guru ... Has earned their respect, and that of the rest of the locker room, by maturing over the years into one of wrestling's most complete packages.

WHERE HE'S HEADED:

Had he not missed five months of the grading period with a broken collarbone, it's a safe bet that Orton would have sat atop the "PWI 500" at number-one for the second straight year. As it was, Orton, despite losing the WWE title to Batista at Extreme Rules, has been on a tear in WWE, and his immediate future appears bright. Now healthy and with two of WWE's most talented young lions by his side, it will be tough for anyone to dethrone "The Legend Killer." Orton is positioned to reclaim his belt, particularly with Batista's health always in question. But there are most certainly a number of contenders with whom he will have to compete. Chief among them is his successor at the number-one spot, Triple-H, who will no doubt have vengeance on his mind when he makes his return after being defeated and kicked in the skull by Orton in April. John Cena, too, has an old score to settle with Orton—and has never lost a pay-per-view singles match to him. But to find two of his biggest threats, Orton need not look any further than over his left and right shoulder. Young, gifted, and hungry, DiBiase and Rhodes may be willing to take a back seat to Orton for only so long before they choose to prove themselves against him.

Photos by George Napolitano



pwi500

6 NIGEL McGUINNESS

(6'1", 220, 9, 8)

PATH TO NUMBER 6:

291 in 2002, 299 in 2003, 219 in 2004, 124 in 2005, 47 in 2006, 25 in 2007, 8 in 2008

TOP FIVE MOMENTS OF THE YEAR:

1. Won a four-man elimination match at the Hammerstein Ballroom in New York City against Bryan Danielson, Tyler Black, and Claudio Castagnoli to retain his ROH championship.

2. Defeated longtime rival "American Dragon" Bryan Danielson in the main event of the November 22 Rising Above II pay-per-view.

3. Pinned Naomichi Marafuji to retain the ROH championship at Final Battle.

4. Successfully defended the ROH championship against KENTA despite nursing a seriously injured arm, in the main event of the ROH Sixth Anniversary show in Manhattan.

5. Won the One Pro Wrestling openweight championship by beating Johnny Moss in Doncaster, England, on April 19.

WHY HE'S NUMBER 6:

There was simply no more dominant wrestling champion in 2008 than Nigel McGuinness ... Had an arm injury not made him vulnerable to defeat, there's no telling how long McGuinness' reign as ROH champion would have lasted ... As it was, it lasted an incredible 545 days ... Along the way McGuinness, quite literally, took on and defeated all challengers—even if he didn't exactly do so willingly ... Made longtime rival Bryan Danielson jump through hoops before eventually granting him a title shot, and then decisively beat him ... Did much the same in title defenses against the likes of Jimmy Jacobs, Roderick Strong, Claudio Castagnoli, and El Generico ... Beat current ROH champion Jerry Lynn in their first match in December, and weeks later ran down Lynn as "washed-up"—even comparing him to the Randy "The Ram" Robinson character in *The Wrestler*—a film in which McGuinness made a cameo appearance... For all the disrespect McGuinness has shown fans, the ROH championship, and the company itself, at his core he represents the very foundation upon which ROH was built—wrestling mastery ... Few wrestlers display more technical expertise, submission skills, striking

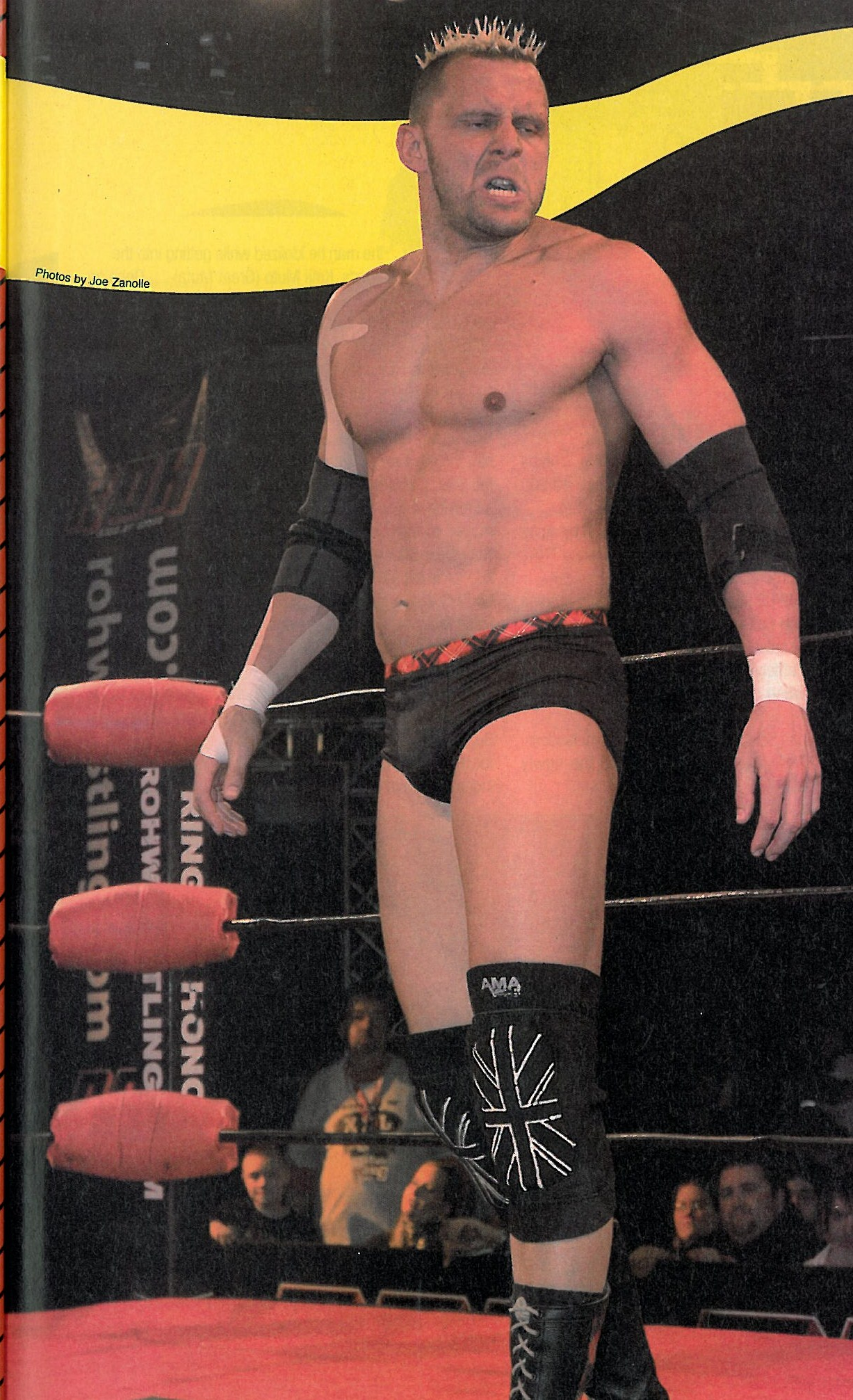
ability, and—yes—heart in the ring than the controversial Brit.

WHERE HE'S HEADED:

McGuinness may have found ways to handily beat most of his opponents, but his toughest enemy still looms—himself. McGuinness' rough, physical style in the ring has already cost the former champion the cheers of fans, the ROH title, and has also probably shaved a few years off his career. It was the injury breaks McGuinness took early in his title reign that caused fans to question his fortitude. While their doubts may have driven McGuinness to scorn them, it also drove him to become even more aggressive in the ring, and to forgo properly healing his lingering injuries. Even after being diagnosed with his second torn biceps, McGuinness continued wrestling—and even won his first singles title in his native United Kingdom. McGuinness only took about two months away from the ring following his injury before his scheduled return ROH match in June. And while McGuinness may be shortening his career by driving himself so hard, his tenacity may help him win back the support of fans. McGuinness was cheered when he announced he was taking time off to heal his injuries. With ROH gaining ground as a legitimate national player, thanks in large part to its HDNet television deal, McGuinness has a shot to climb higher and higher in these rankings—if he can stay in one piece.



Photos by Joe Zanolle



PWI 500

7 HIROSHI TANAHASHI

(5'11", 223, 10, 20)

PATH TO NUMBER 10:

40 in 2007, 20 in 2008

TOP FIVE MOMENTS OF THE YEAR:

1. Defeated his teacher and idol Keiji Muto at Wrestle Kingdom III in the Tokyo Dome in January before 40,000 fans to capture the IWGP heavyweight championship.
2. Followed up on defeating a Japanese legend by doing likewise against an American legend in April, pinning TNA's Kurt Angle in an unforgettable title defense.
3. Captured the IWGP heavyweight title a fourth time on June 20 at Dominion 6:20 after having been upset for the title by Manabu Nakanishi 45 days earlier.
4. Became the official leading man of New Japan Pro-Wrestling by defeating his top rival, Shinsuke Nakamura, in February.
5. Led New Japan Sekigun against various rival factions, including GBH (Great Bash Heel), RISE, and the newly formed CHAOS.

WHY HE'S NUMBER 7:

Nicknamed the "High Flying Star" of New Japan Pro-Wrestling, Tanahashi has fought back from a serious injury to become the poster boy of pro wrestling in Japan ... Is largely responsible for lifting New Japan out of a slump that spanned most of the decade, offering a fresh and exciting style to draw in new fans ... Struggling for results after his injury, he returned to TNA late last year, making several TV appearances and finding fresh motivation for his return home ... Back in Japan to start the new year, he headlined New Japan's annual Tokyo Dome show in January and won back the IWGP heavyweight championship from

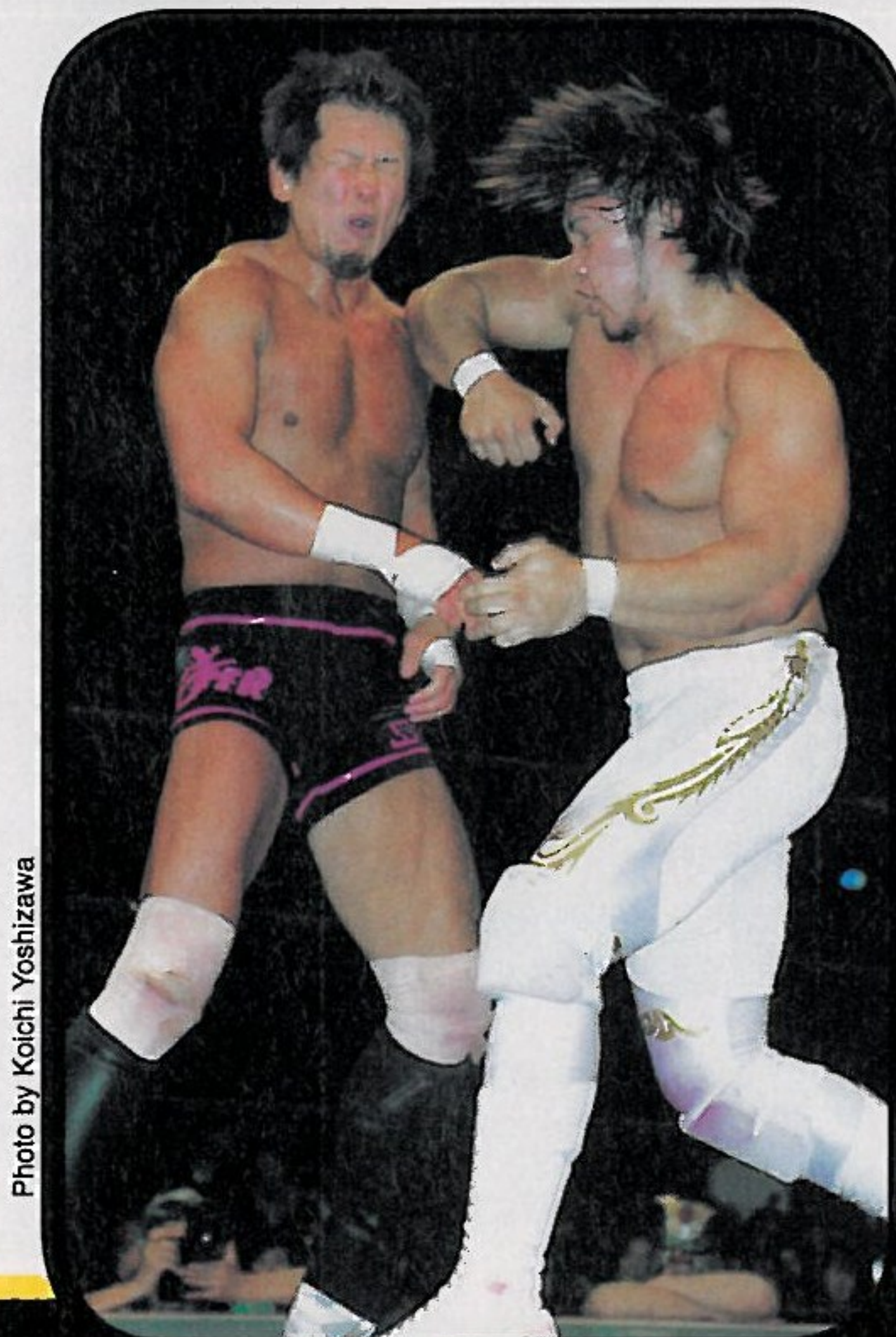


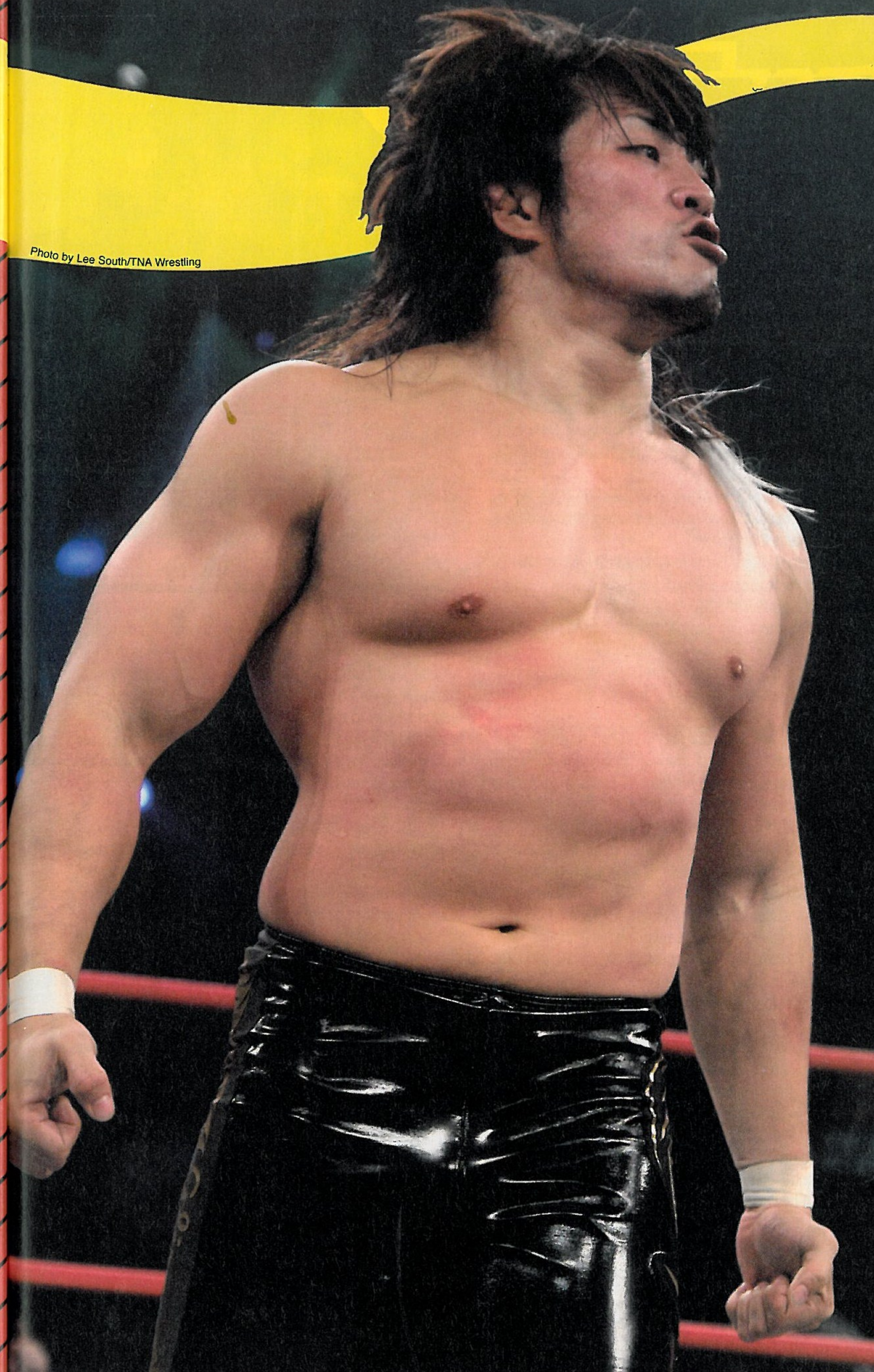
Photo by Koichi Yoshizawa

the man he idolized while getting into the business, Keiji Muto (Great Muta) ... Once an underdog relying on speed and cradles to win matches, a decisive victory over Kurt Angle in Fukuoka this April cemented his place as a serious force not only in Japan, but the entire wrestling world ... Lost the title in an upset to Manabu Nakanishi in May but regained it 45 days later ... His good looks and charisma make him an easy star to market for New Japan. Regular television and media appearances make him the most recognizable young star Japan has seen since the '90s ... Has expanded his move set considerably, utilizing an effective mix of suplexes, submissions, and high-flying moves to form a near-complete package ... Called the "Japanese Shawn Michaels" by Angle, he has incredible confidence in his abilities ... Has several finishers, but favors an Eddie Guerrero-style frog splash called the High Fly Flow that felled Muto, Nakamura, and Angle.

WHERE HE'S HEADED:

In an historic first-ever meeting between IWGP and NOAH champions, Tanahashi was scheduled to meet Takashi Sugiura with the IWGP title on the line just after press time for this issue. Following that, New Japan's G1 Climax, the biggest tournament on the Japanese calendar, is scheduled for August. Excellent performances and positive charisma have made Tanahashi very popular—particularly with women. This will further establish him as a true superstar in a country that still struggles to accept anyone that has prospered after the glorious '90s, when the likes of Muto, Chono, Hashimoto, Misawa, Kawada, and Kobashi ruled. Tanahashi must also carry the weight of responsibility in leading NJPW against any threats, including rival factions such as NOAH and Nakamura's recently formed heel group CHAOS ... New Japan's ongoing working relationships with promotions such as TNA, NOAH, All Japan, and CMLL involves regular appearances by outside talent.

Photo by Lee South/TNA Wrestling



pwi500

8 C.M. PUNK

(6'1", 222, 10, 24)

PATH TO NUMBER 8:

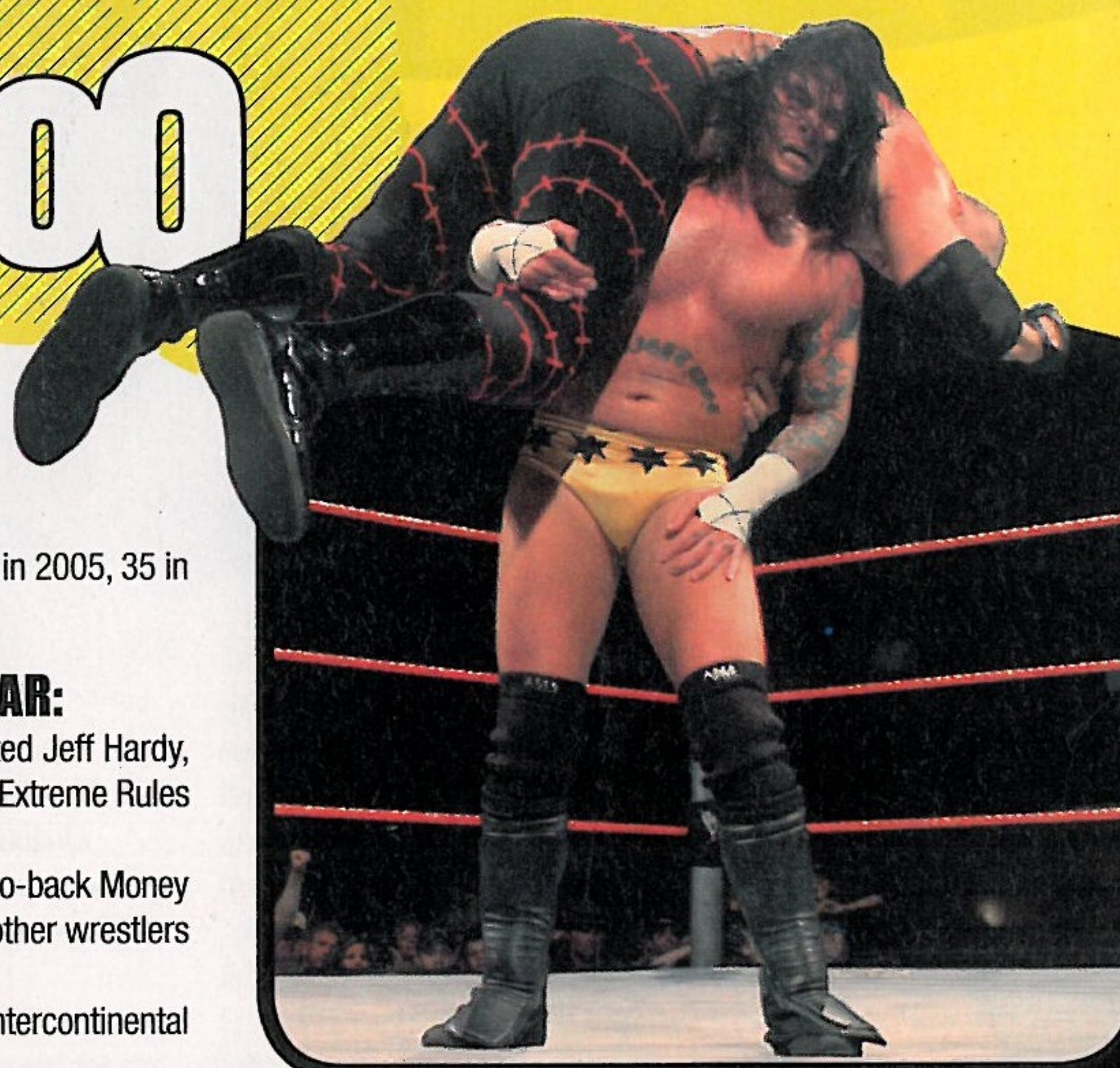
305 in 2002, 171 in 2003, 89 in 2004, 40 in 2005, 35 in 2006, 42 in 2007, 24 in 2008.

TOP FIVE MOMENTS OF THE YEAR:

1. Won the WWE World title from a depleted Jeff Hardy, moments after Hardy had beaten Edge at the Extreme Rules PPV on June 7.
2. Became the first man ever to win back-to-back Money in the Bank matches when he bested seven other wrestlers at WrestleMania 25.
3. Defeated William Regal to win his first Intercontinental championship on January 29.
4. With partner Kofi Kingston, defeated Ted DiBiase Jr. and Cody Rhodes to capture the WWE World tag team title on October 27.
5. Cashed in his Money in the Bank shot at Extreme Rules to beat Jeff Hardy and win the World title.

WHY HE'S NUMBER 8:

Punk's position as only a mid-card player in WWE belies one of the most impressive resumés of any wrestler at this stage of his career ... During the grading period, wore three different titles in WWE, including the World championship twice ... Defended first World title valiantly for three months, against the likes of Batista and Kane ... Won the second title in much the same manner as first, utilizing his money in the bank to beat a worn-out champion ... Enjoyed a non-televised career highlight when he headlined a WWE live event in Madison Square Garden in August, defeating JBL in a cage match ... Never actually lost his World title in the ring, and rather was stripped of the championship after Legacy knocked him out before a title defense at Unforgiven, where Chris Jericho would replace him and win the championship ... Was back on the horse before long, defending the WWE World tag team championship with Kofi Kingston for six weeks and defeating Rey Mysterio Jr. in a thrilling match at Armageddon to decide the number-one contender for the Intercontinental title ... Appeared anxious on several occasions to cash in his second consecutive money in the bank guaranteed title shot, but Umaga got in his way—sparking an intense rivalry ... Muay-thai-inspired arsenal, combined



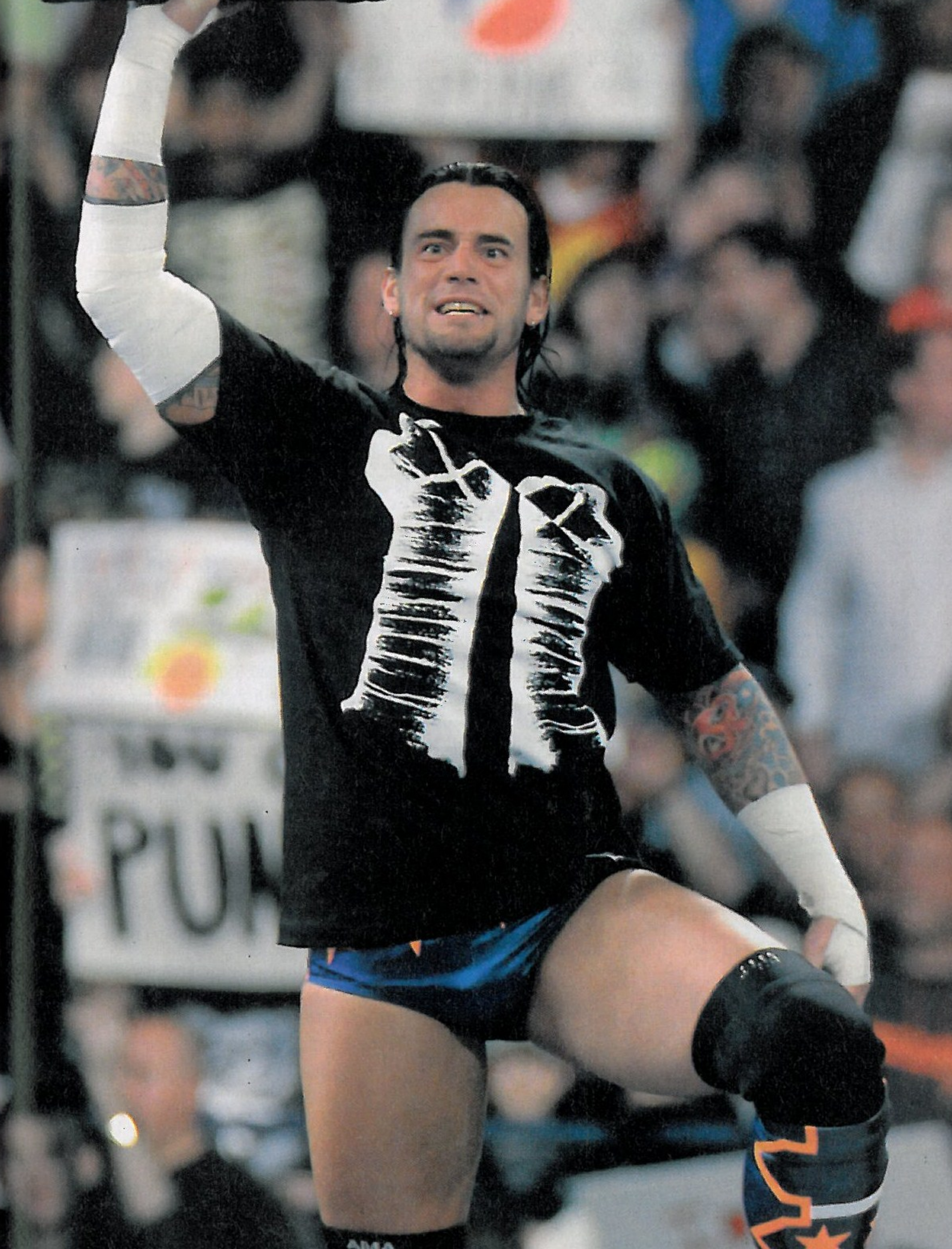
with his devastating Go-To-Sleep finisher make Punk a serious threat to opponents even twice his size ... Has to shed the image of being an opportunist, and not a deserving champ ... Didn't help that image when he cashed in his second Money in the Bank shot to beat Jeff Hardy for the World title following Hardy's grueling battle with Edge ... A true wrestling fan at heart, Punk appears to be having as much fun as anyone in the sport right now.

WHERE HE'S HEADED:

In his three years in WWE, Punk has held the ECW championship, Intercontinental championship, World tag team championship, World championship, and won back-to-back Money in the Bank ladder matches at WrestleMania. And yet, it's a safe bet that Punk's peak career years still lie ahead. That seems especially apparent since Punk was drafted to Smackdown—a brand in which he is less likely to be overshadowed by tenured megastars like Triple-H, Shawn Michaels, John Cena, and Batista. On Smackdown, Punk is more likely to be in the world title picture—especially since he doesn't leave home without his steel case. He will have to lose the World title and regain it legitimately to ever be considered a worthy titlist. But that's his own fault. Has a myriad of worthy challengers on Smackdown waiting for a piece of him, including Jeff Hardy, Chris Jericho, and another wrestler who, like Punk, has a mixed martial arts-inspired arsenal—The Undertaker. But Punk has shown enough guts and skill in the ring that even beating the "Dead Man" is not out of the question.



Photos by George Napolitano



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9 STING

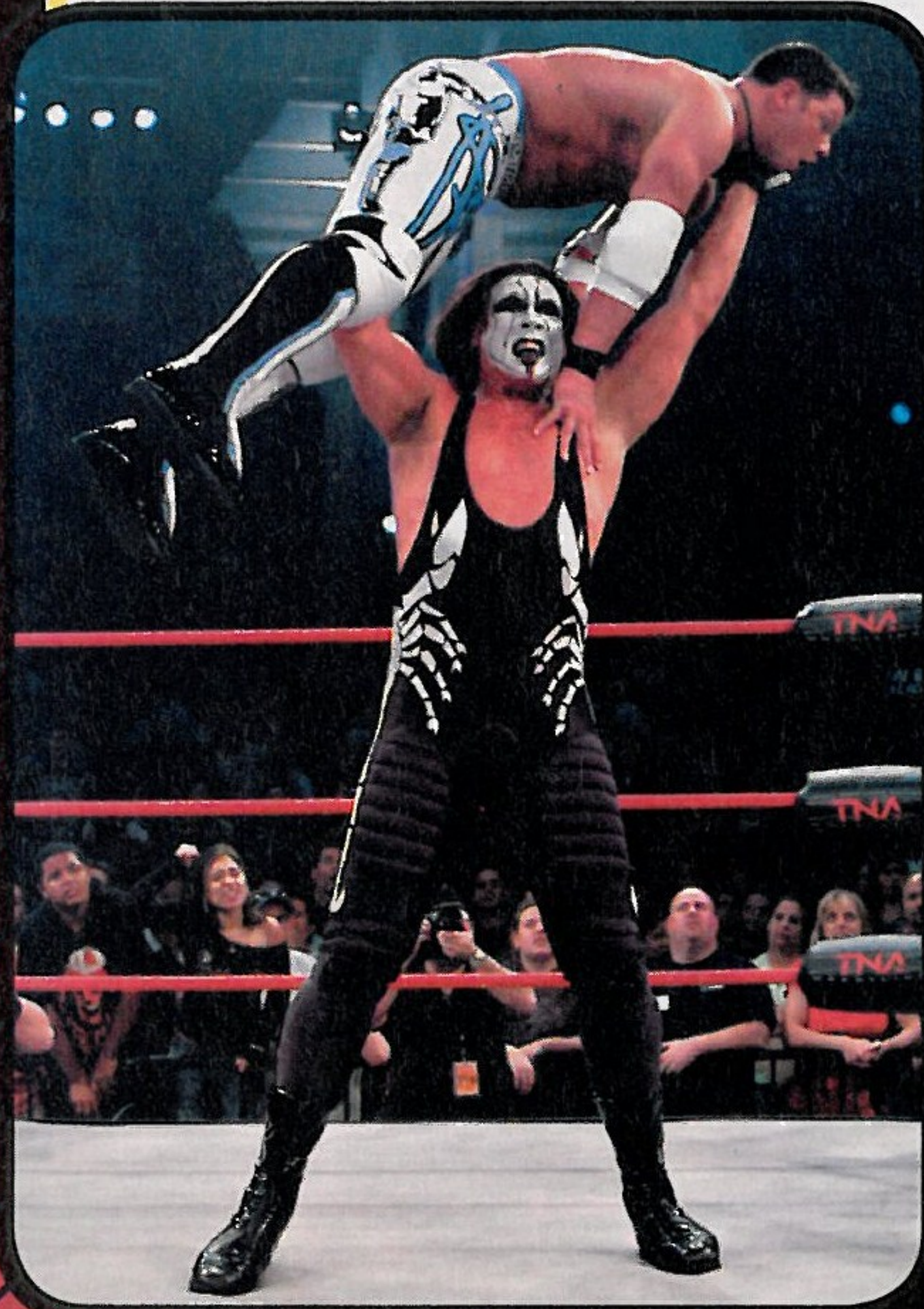
(6'2", 250, 24, 84)

PATH TO NUMBER 9:

5 in 1991, 1 in 1992, 4 in 1993, 8 in 1994, 3 in 1995, 3 in 1996, 12 in 1998, 12 in 1999, 26 in 2000, 26 in 2006, 19 in 2007

TOP FIVE MOMENTS OF THE YEAR:

1. Defeated Samoa Joe to capture the TNA World championship at Bound For Glory for the third straight year.
2. Won four-way Ultimate Sacrifice match in which his career was on the line, and in doing so also won control of the Main Event Mafia.
3. Beat A.J. Styles to retain the TNA World title at Turning Point.
4. Defeated fellow Main Event Mafia member Kurt Angle in a grudge match to retain the TNA World title at Destination X.



5. Successfully defended his TNA World title at Against All Odds, where he beat Angle, Brother Ray, and Brother Devon in a four-way match.

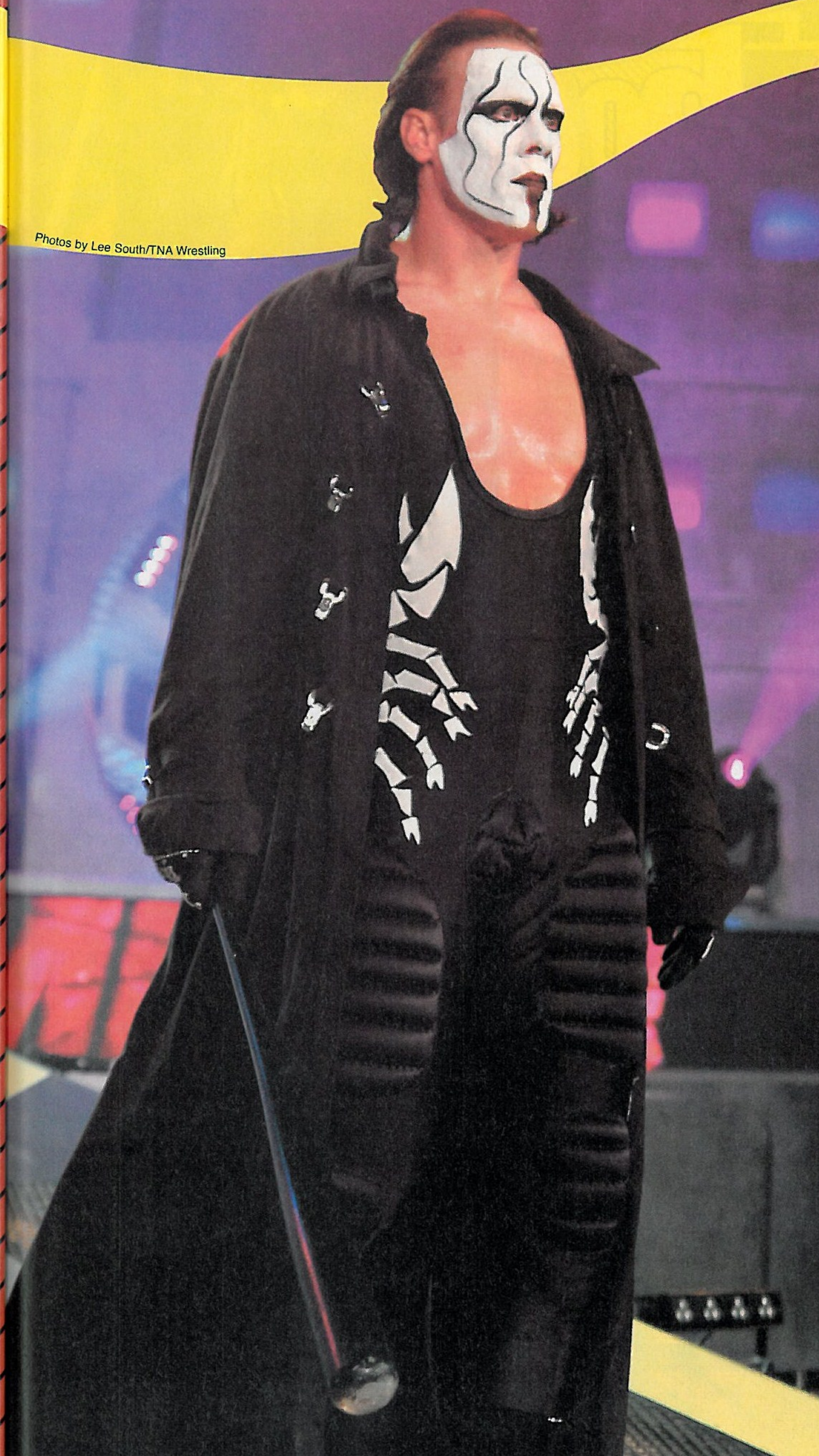
WHY HE'S NUMBER 9:

After nearly a quarter-century in the sport, the "Stinger" had one of the best years of his career, and earned his highest ranking in 13 years ... At 189 days, he enjoyed the longest TNA World title reign since the company split from the National Wrestling Alliance in 2007 ... But Sting's success over the past year is better measured not by the number of days he wore championship gold, but the effort he has put forth in his matches ... For the first time in a long time, Sting has appeared absolutely inspired, both in the ring and behind the microphone ... His rejuvenated passion for the sport may have a lot to do with his new role in it ... At 50 years of age, Sting is the oldest and most experienced member of the TNA locker room ... As such, Sting has been determined to get the respect he feels he has earned from his colleagues ... While his association with the Main Event Mafia has seemed like a bad fit at times, it has actually pushed Sting to better himself and prove to the world that a ring veteran need not take short cuts or bully younger wrestlers to get ahead.

WHERE HE'S HEADED:

The obvious prediction to make is that Sting will likely wind down his career soon, but, then again, who's to say? Although Sting has said in interviews that he envisions hanging up his boots in 2009, he's also said that he would do so to avoid embarrassing himself and TNA. But, he is in the best shape he has been in years, and delivering some of the best matches and interviews since he became a regular part of TNA more than three years ago, Sting is far from a burden on TNA right now. However, while Sting still has plenty to contribute to the TNA product, he doesn't have anything more to prove. Sting has taken on and defeated nearly every major name in TNA, including Kurt Angle, Jeff Jarrett, A.J. Styles, and Samoa Joe. After winning control of the Main Event Mafia at Sacrifice, he may be inspired to lead the faction in a new, more righteous direction. But it's more realistic to expect that the arrangement will end with Sting feuding with his Mafia comrades. Of course, no discussion of Sting's future is ever complete without one age-old question: Will he ever compete in WWE? With Sting showing that he could still go in the ring, it's not unreasonable to expect Vince McMahon to make one last offer to try to lure the "Stinger" into the fold.

Photos by Lee South/TNA Wrestling



PWI 500

10 ULTIMO GUERRERO

(6', 200, 19, 11, 12)

PATH TO NUMBER 10:

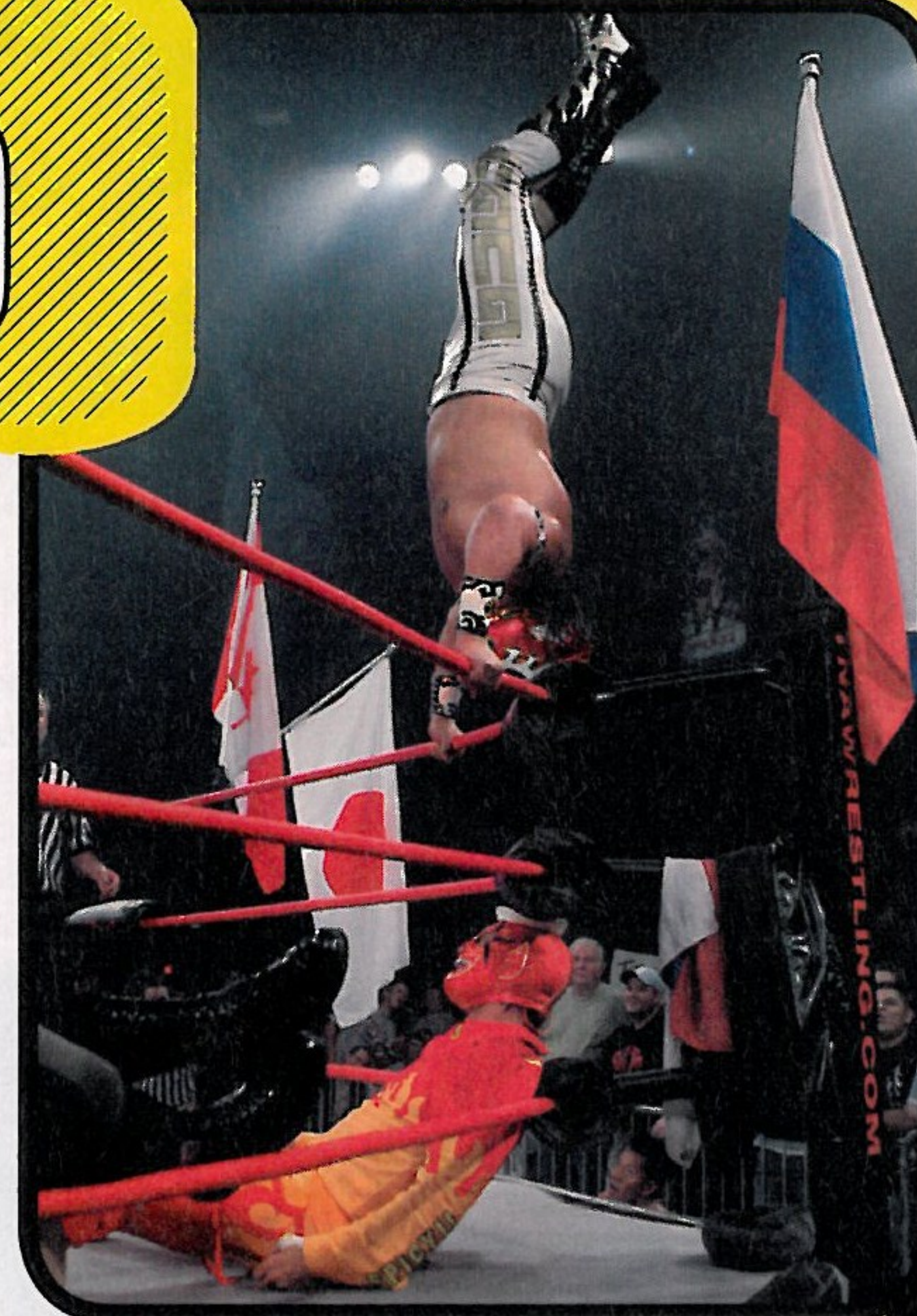
81 in 2000, 154 in 2001, 61 in 2002, 141 in 2003, 94 in 2004, 12 in 2005, 22 in 2006, 11 in 2007, 12 in 2008

TOP FIVE MOMENTS OF THE YEAR

1. Unmasked Villano V, a member of the legendary Imperial Dynasty, in a grueling singles match.
2. Defeated Dos Caras Jr. to become CMLL heavyweight champion.
3. Participated in the TNA World X Cup 2008, as part of Team Mexico, and won the title.
4. Became CMLL trios champion as member of the Guerreros de la Atlantida with Atlantis and Rey Bucanero
5. Formed a super-faction called Los Laguneros, composed of luchadores born in Mexico's Comarca Lagunera region.

WHY HE'S NUMBER 10:

One of the most successful and decorated luchadores in Mexico over the past few years ... Whether he is a fantastic tecnico or a cruel rudo, the fans recognize his in-ring quality and charisma ... Formed part of CMLL's Team Mexico that won the TNA World X Cup 2008. Team Mexico won the tournament, and Guerrero was a key player in this important victory. The prestigious tournament not only added an important title to his resume, but also earned him an intense feud with Alex Shelley. The feud continued in CMLL's Grand Prix tournament, which featured competitors from both CMLL and TNA. Shelley outsmarted Guerrero and brought the title to America, and this only intensified matters. The rivalry continued in several matches in both countries. Fans heavily speculated about an imminent mask-vs.-hair match, but the feud eventually petered out ... Won the CMLL trios championship with stable members Atlantis and Rey Bucanero, but lost the title a few months later to Hector Garza, La Mascara, and Hijo del Fantasma ... Formed Los Laguneros, which had some success as Guerrero managed to get several luchadores to battle against other CMLL wrestlers ... Finally won the CMLL heavyweight championship by defeating Dos Caras Jr., making him the top champion in the company. As part of the Laguneros stable, Guerrero formed an alliance with Blue Panther to battle the Imperial Dynasty. Villano V turned his

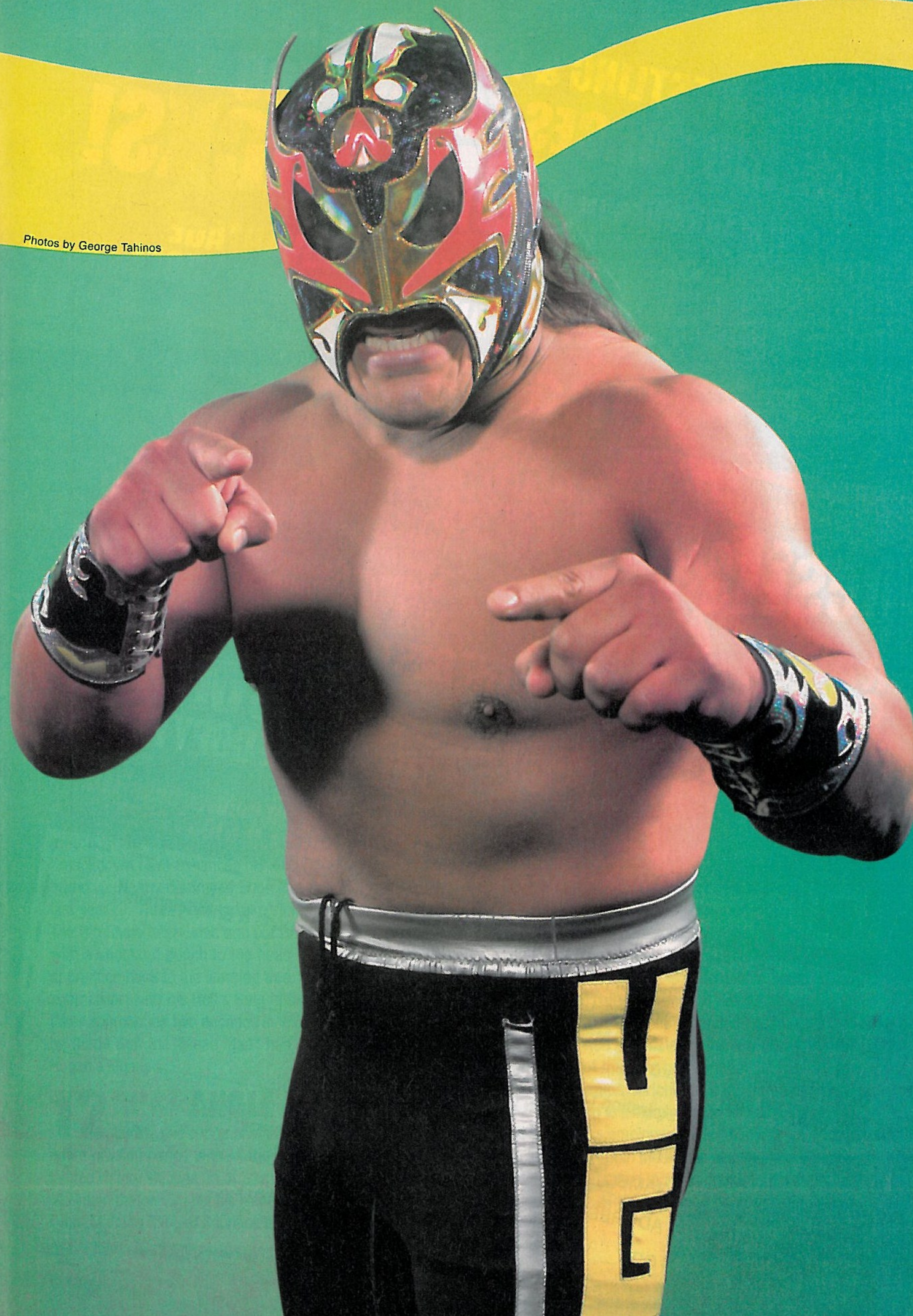


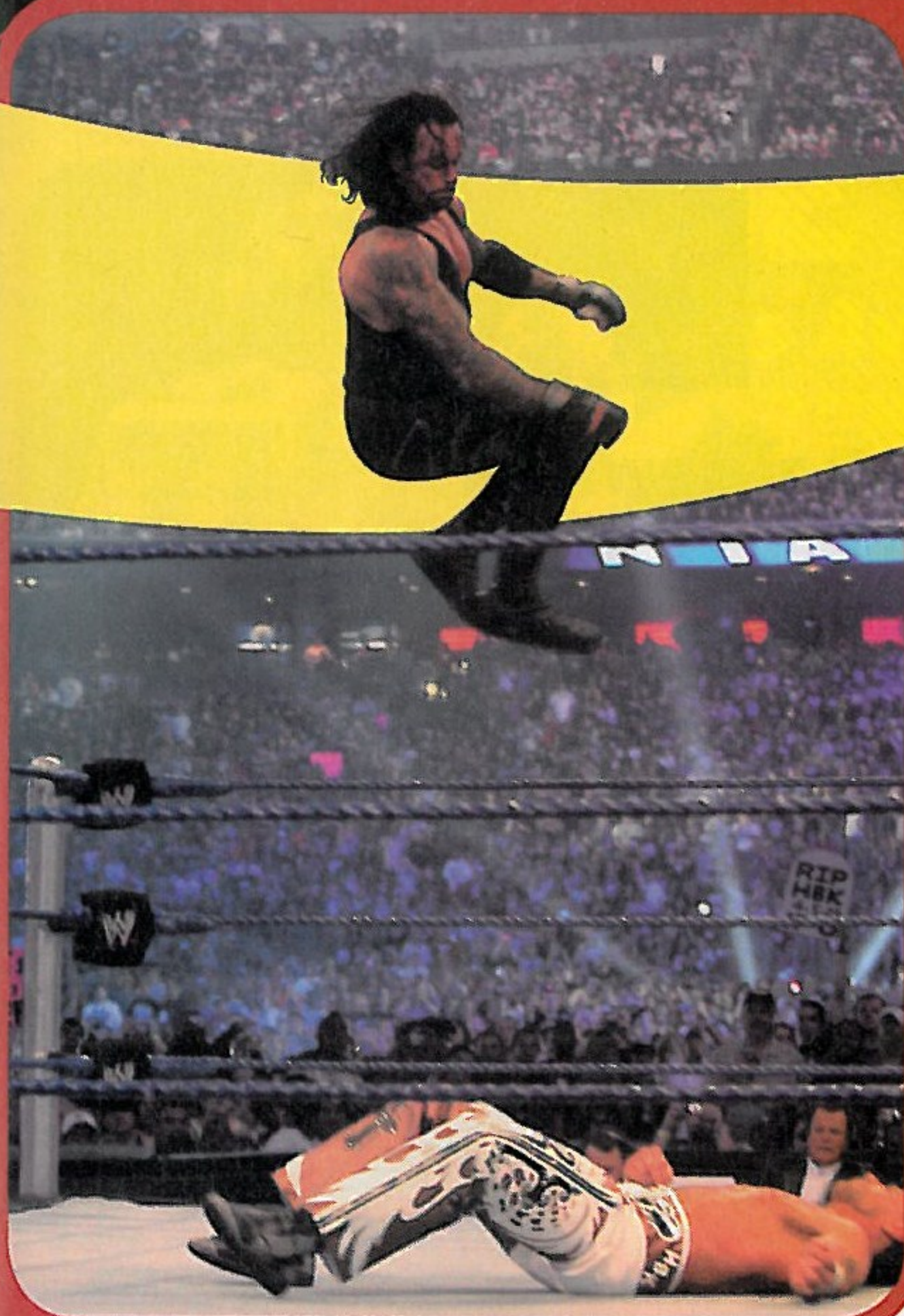
hatred of Blue Panther on Guerrero, and a new rivalry began. Both men battled in several tag matches with their stables, and the feud culminated in a mask-vs.-mask match. Guerrero unmasked Villano V, thus obtaining one of the most prestigious masks in Lucha Libre and perhaps the most important win of his career ... Continued defending the heavyweight title against nemesis Villano V and emerged victorious in every defense.

WHERE HE'S HEADED:

After close to two decades of hard work, Guerrero is finally being rewarded for his efforts. As CMLL's heavyweight and a former trios champion, there isn't much more for him to aspire to or to prove. The best way for Guerrero to cement himself as the best wrestler in Mexico is by retaining the heavyweight title for as long as he can while being as active as possible. To stay active and be considered a fighting champion, Guerrero must now seek out new challengers (El Terrible, Villano IV, Mephisto) and new challenges, maybe unmasking all the members of Imperial Dynasty or winning another X Cup in TNA. He has already convinced Lucha Libre fans that he's among the best wrestlers of his generation, but a long title reign and a few more high-profile unmaskings could earn him a reputation as Mexico's foremost luchador and one of the all-time greats.

Photos by George Tahinos





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11 THE UNDERTAKER (6'10", 299, 25, 6)

Established himself as WWE's undisputed icon by defeating Shawn Michaels at WrestleMania 25 and extending his undefeated 'Mania streak to 17-0 ... Concerns about The Undertaker's advancing age have evaporated, considering his match against Michaels is regarded by some as the greatest WrestleMania match of all-time ... His infrequent appearances on Smackdown have enhanced his mystique and value to the brand ... Nearly destroyed Edge in a Hell in a Cell match last year ... Threatened to take Vickie Guerrero's soul ... The Big Show intervened and put Undertaker out of action with a knockout punch to the head ... Sent his one-time apprentice back to the learning tree, forcing Big Show into submission with his Hell's Gate choke hold ... As Undertaker approaches two decades in WWE, a strong case can be made that the "Dead Man" has surpassed even Hulk Hogan's legacy.

12 KURT ANGLE (6', 233, 10, 2)

Was, as always, the center of attention in TNA, but went the entire grading period without the World title until scoring a tainted victory on June 21 at Slammiversary in a King of the Mountain match ... Lost his leadership position in the Main Event Mafia to Sting at Sacrifice thanks to a special stipula-

tion in a four-way match also involving Jeff Jarrett and defending TNA titleholder Mick Foley ... Suffered losses to key opponents last year, including A.J. Styles in a last-man-standing match at Hard Justice and Jeff Jarrett at Bound for Glory ... Battled Sting in an empty-arena match, resulting in *Impact's* highest Nielsen rating up to that time ... Defeated Giant Bernard on February 15 in Tokyo ... Issued a challenge to IWGP champion Shinsuke Nakamura ... The Angle Slam remains one of wrestling's most dangerous finishers, with Angle able to execute the maneuver on foes of all sizes, from Jay Lethal to Abyss ... Not likely to tolerate his subservient position in the MEM much longer.

13 JEFF HARDY (6'1", 225, 16, 18)

Realized his boyhood dream by winning the WWE title in a three-way match also involving Triple-H and defending champ Edge at Armageddon ... His rivalry with Triple-H had boosted him to main-event status after a decade in WWE ... Plagued by a dubious storyline that began when the Smackdown star was supposedly found motionless in a hotel stairwell prior to the Survivor Series pay-per-view and continued during his title reign, as he was involved in a vehicular hit-and-run and a pyrotechnics mishap ... Jeff's championship dream turned into a nightmare when brother Matt smashed him with a steel chair at the Royal Rumble, enabling Edge to regain the belt ... His Twist of Fate finisher can be uncoiled in an instant.

14 SHAWN MICHAELS (6'1", 225, 26, 7)

Still regrouping after losing to The Undertaker at WrestleMania 25 ... His fiercest nemesis during 2008-09 was Chris Jericho ... Suffered a detached retina during his grudge match against Jericho at The Great American Bash ... Jericho punched Michaels' wife, Rebecca, while HBK was attempting to announce his retirement at SummerSlam 2008 ... Michaels gained revenge at Unforgiven, where the referee declared Jericho unfit to continue in their unsanctioned match ... Won *PWI* Match of the Year (WM 24 vs. Ric Flair), and Feud of the Year (vs. Jericho) ... Lost to new WWE World champion Jericho in a ladder match at No Mercy ... Subjected to a storyline in which he became John Bradshaw Layfield's employee earlier this year ... Though dramatic, his Sweet Chin Music has become less effective, considering it often takes more than one to finish off top-flight opponents ... Rumored to be contemplating retirement in 2010.

PWI 500

15 KEIJI MUTO (6'1", 243, 26, 16) Seems no number of injuries can keep "Wrestling Master" far from the top in his native Japan ... Won the Tokyo Sports MVP award for 2008, recognizing him as Japan's most accomplished wrestler last year ... Holding both New Japan's IWGP heavyweight championship as himself and All Japan's Triple Crown championship as his Great Muta alter ego heading into 2009, he was somehow again the leading figure in Japan at the ripe age of 46 ... Lost both titles early in 2009 or would certainly have been the top Japanese wrestler in the "PWI 500" this year ... Preparing to bring back his tattooed "Dark Angel" alter ego, Kokushi Muso, in the near future ... As the president of All Japan Pro-Wrestling and master of the Shining Wizard knee kick to the head, Muto's charisma and ring presence remain second to none.

➔ 16 BATISTA (6'6", 290, 12, 15) No one wants championship gold more than Batista, but he has been continually sidetracked by injuries or vicious feuds ... Pinned Chris Jericho for his fourth world championship at Cyber Sunday, but Jericho regained it inside a steel cage on *Raw* only eight days later ... Defeated former Evolution teammate Randy Orton at Armageddon ... Orton exacted revenge by punting Batista in the head on the December 15 episode of *Raw* ... Missed four months of action due to a hamstring injury ... Returned on the April 6 *Raw*, joining Triple-H and Shane McMahon in their feud with Legacy ... His sit-out power bomb continues to be awesome, although it is feared that his frequent execution of the spear may give him neck problems in the future ... Has hinted that a heel turn and a prolonged feud with John Cena is inevitable.

17 TYLER BLACK (6'1", 210, 4, 88) His career skyrocketed in 2008-09, with Black enjoying a faster rise than anyone in Ring of Honor ... He and Jimmy Jacobs, as members of The Age of the Fall, wore the Ring of Honor tag team belts throughout the summer of '08 ... They lost the straps to Kevin Steen and El Generico last September ... Got on a singles roll with a win over Go Shiozaki for the Full-Impact Pro title on December 20 ... Pinned ROH singles champion Nigel McGuinness in a non-title bout on January 16 ... Wrestled McGuinness to a draw the following night ... Also battled future ROH champ Jerry Lynn to a draw ...

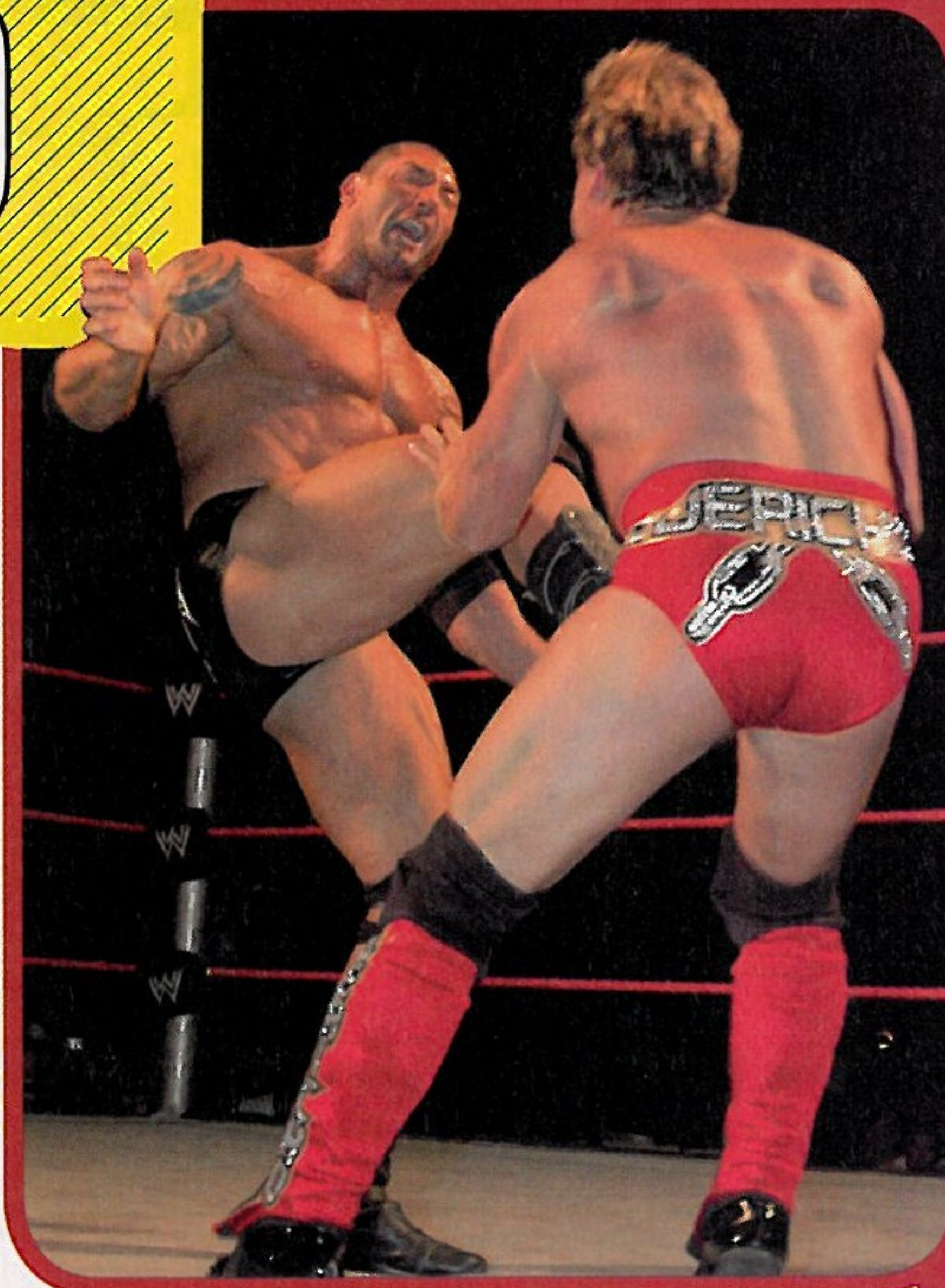


Photo by Shane M. Kidder

Beat former partner Jacobs, Austin Aries, and Bryan Danielson in a four-way match to earn a ROH title shot ... Failed to win McGuinness' belt because Jacobs and Aries attacked him during the match ... Now embroiled in a feud with Jacobs and Aries ... Known to pop a corkscrew while delivering a 450 splash.

18 JACK SWAGGER (6'4", 263, 3, 222) Emerged from the obscurity of Florida Championship Wrestling to become the centerpiece of a prime-time WWE show ... Not a bad year for the former amateur stand-out ... Completely dominated Tommy Dreamer upon his ECW debut, defeating the one-time "Innovator Of Violence" in a straight pro wrestling bout, an "All-American Challenge," and a match held under extreme rules ... Beat Matt Hardy for the ECW title on January 12 ... Retained the belt against Hardy at the Royal Rumble ... The "All-American American's" undefeated streak continued until February 3 when veteran Finlay defeated him in a non-title bout ... Spoiled Christian's WWE return by pinning him cleanly ... Lost the ECW title to Christian at Backlash ... Uses a falling gut-wrench power bomb as his finishing maneuver ... Must be careful not to let the sexual tension between him and ECW General Manager Tiffany distract him.

19 A.J. STYLES (5'11", 215, 12, 21) While it was believed that a feud with Kurt Angle could take Styles to the next level, leaving Kurt and his wife Karen behind turned out to be a blessing to his career ... Regained respectability when he became a target of the Main Event Mafia ... He and Samoa Joe became the leaders of the Frontline, which resisted the Mafia temporarily ... Lost to TNA World champ Sting last November ... Injured by Angle in a tables match in January, putting him out of action ... Attacked MEM member Booker T upon his return at Against All Odds ... Defeated Booker for the Legends title at Destination X ... Retained the Legends belt against Booker T in an "I Quit" match at Sacrifice ... Still executes scary aerial moves during big events ... The Styles Clash has become a standard finisher in pro wrestling ... This could be the year the former NWA champ wins his first TNA World title.

20 MATT HARDY (6'2", 236, 15, 41) Frustration and jealousy combined to rob Hardy of his brother and his fans this year ... Captured the ECW title in a championship scramble at Unforgiven, where he emerged victorious against Finlay, Chavo Guerrero Jr., The Miz, and defending champ Mark Henry ... The ECW belt turned out to be too big for Hardy, both literally and figura-

tively ... Dominated WWE's third brand while the talent roster remained thin, but suffered a clean loss to newcomer Jack Swagger on January 12 ... Lost to Swagger in a rematch at the Royal Rumble ... That loss prompted Hardy to turn on his brother, Jeff, later that night, bashing him with a chair and helping Edge win the WWE title ... Jumped to Smackdown ... Beat Jeff in a no-DQ match at WrestleMania, injuring his hand in the process ... Drafted to Raw ... Outpaced by stars such as Kofi Kingston in recent bouts ... In hindsight, Hardy's heel turn probably wasn't worth it.

21 JEFF JARRETT (6', 230, 23, NL) Stayed away from his on-air role in TNA for 16 months following the death of his wife, Jill, in 2007 ... Acknowledged his contributions as TNA founder for the first time on *Impact* last September ... Endorsed TNA's younger stars in their budding feud with the future Main Event Mafia ... Introduced Mick Foley as TNA's new executive shareholder ... Answered Kurt Angle's tasteless comments about his family by returning to action at Bound for Glory ... Smashed a guitar over Angle's head for the victory ... Lost to Angle in a 22-minute brawl at Genesis ... Gained respect for Sting while souring on Foley ... Injured his hamstring during a Lethal Lockdown match in April ... Betrayed by Eric Young, who accused him of being a bad father to his three daughters ... The Stroke continues to be the most anti-climactic maneuver in pro wrestling ... Will always have a role as the conscience of TNA.

22 BLUE DEMON JR. (5'8", 228, 24, 121) The son of the "Blue Legend" has finally found international success ... Continues to wrestle in the Mexican independent circuit, battling the likes of El Hijo del Santo, Perro Aguayo Jr., and Dr. Wagner Jr. ... Joined the NWA, and was one of the main pieces to promote NWA Mexico ... Became a regular competitor within the American branch of the NWA ... During a live event in Mexico City, Demon defeated Adam Pearce for the NWA heavyweight championship ... Became the first Mexican wrestler and masked wrestler ever to hold the title ... Win was controversial as Pearce submitted while his hand was under the rope ... Defended the title successfully against Pearce, as well as Super Crazy and Joey Ryan ... Made a couple of appearances for Ring of Honor to relive his feuds with Pearce and Brent Albright ... Finisher is a Butterfly backbreaker.

Photo by Shane M. Kidder/NWA Wrestling

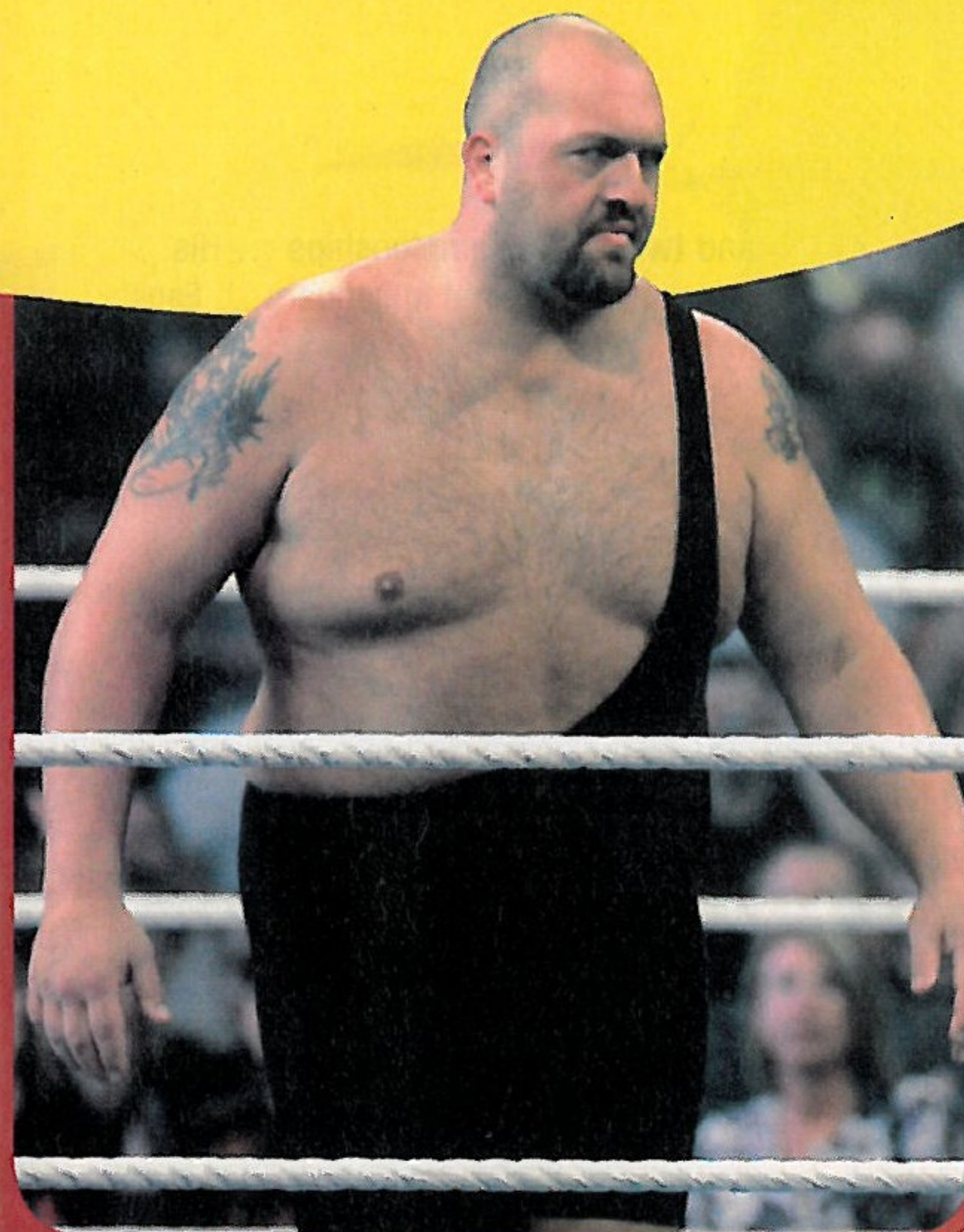


Photo by George Napolitano

23 AUSTIN ARIES (5'9", 202, 8, 31) Became the first wrestler to win a second Ring of Honor heavyweight championship when he won a three-way elimination match against then-champ Jerry Lynn and Tyler Black on June 13 in New York City ... After leaving TNA, joined forces with Jay Briscoe to defeat ROH tag champs Tyler Black and Jimmy Jacobs in a non-title bout last summer ... An unsanctioned brawl with Jacobs in Detroit culminated in the two men fighting atop a ladder; Necro Butcher tipped over the ladder, sending Aries and Jacobs crashing through a table 20 feet below ... Lost to Jacobs in a falls-count-anywhere match, but beat Jacobs in a bloody dog-collar match and forced him to surrender in an "I Quit" match ... Fans seemed to turn on Aries in favor of The Age of the Fall's Tyler Black ... Defeated Black in a top contender's match at Final Battle ... Did the unthinkable when he helped Jacobs attack Black after the bout ... His Horns of Aries finishing hold is actually a bridging arm triangle choke ... Considered a great mentor to younger talent.

24 SHINSUKE NAKAMURA (6'2", 245, 7, 10) Last year's number-10 in the "PWI 500", the "Supernova" of New Japan Pro-Wrestling has

remained consistent and strong since losing the IWGP heavyweight championship to Keiji Muto in April '08 ... Called out the legendary and late Pro Wrestling NOAH boss Mitsuharu Misawa in a dream tag match at the Tokyo Dome in January, winning on that night ... Continued to fight it out with wrestlers from NOAH, but a loss to in-house rival Hiroshi Tanahashi meant he had to settle for second best in NJPW ... In an attempt to end the career of hated rival Togi Makabe, Nakamura formed NJPW's newest faction CHAOS, comprised of himself and remnants of Makabe's former group GBH, including Toru Yano and Giant Bernard ... Has developed a new edge with a more physical and direct style than in the past ... Continues to finish opponents with the Landslide, a fireman's carry Michinoku Driver II.

25 THE BIG SHOW (7'2", 485, 14, 51) Remains a serious threat in any scenario in WWE ... Aligned himself with Smackdown General Manager Vickie Guerrero last summer ... Attacked The Undertaker at Unforgiven and interfered in several of his matches ... Scored a very impressive win over The Undertaker via knockout at No Mercy ... Paid dearly for that victory, however, as 'Taker brutalized him in a last-man-standing match at Cyber Sunday and a casket match at Survivor Series ... John Cena revealed that Big Show was secretly romancing Edge's wife, Vickie ... Failed to win the World title in a three-way also involving Cena and defending champ Edge at WrestleMania ... Now favors the knockout punch over the chokeslam he used for most of his career ... The only wrestler in history to hold the WWE, WCW, and ECW titles.

26 REY MYSTERIO JR. (5'6", 175, 20, 59) Seems fully recovered from a torn biceps that required three surgeries within the span of a month in the spring of 2008 ... His draft to Raw coincided with his return last June ... Targeted Kane, who had taken credit for retiring Mysterio ... Shut the mouth of WWE's resident bully, John Bradshaw Layfield, by pinning him for the Intercontinental title in only 21 seconds at WrestleMania 25 ... Sent back to Smackdown in the 2009 talent draft ... Lost I-C title to Chris Jerico on June 7 at Extreme Rules, but won it back on June 28 ... His West Coast Pop has become his most effective finishing move, considering the 619 requires such an elaborate set-up ... Several surgeries have enhanced the durability of his knees and ankles, but retirement is always a possibility.

PWI 500

➔ 27 BRYAN DANIELSON (5'10", 185, 8, 13) Many fans consider Danielson the best wrestler in the world ... Embarrassed by such chants when he attended the WWE Hall of Fame ceremony this year ... Jim Ross said he, "wrestles like a star" ... That said, Danielson may lack the physique and charisma to be given a chance in WWE ... Competed in Mexico and Australia over the past year ... Defeated Yoshinobu Kanemaru for the GHC junior heavyweight title on September 14 in Tokyo ... Lost the belt when he fell prey to KENTA's Go To Sleep in Hiroshima one month later ... Danielson's loss to Ring of Honor champion Nigel McGuinness was particularly devastating, considering the ROH belt was an important part of his past and potentially his future ... His Cattle Mutilation (a bridging double-underhook chicken wing) is being adopted throughout the indy scene ... Becoming increasingly selective regarding his wrestling commitments and has suggested to ROH fans that his career may be winding down.

28 CHRISTIAN (6'1", 224, 14, 14) The current image of Christian battling it out for the ECW belt is a stark contrast to the final image of him in TNA: laying motionless, the victim of a brutal beatdown by the Main Event Mafia ... Actually enjoyed a very successful run in TNA, including a 23-month undefeated streak



Photo by Lee South/TNA Wrestling

and two NWA championships ... His TNA contract expired in January ... Fans' hopes for Christian reuniting with longtime partner Edge on Smackdown were dashed when he made his return as part of the ECW brand ... His momentum came to a halt when ECW champion Jack Swagger pinned him cleanly ... Avenged his loss with a title victory over Swagger at Backlash ... Lost the belt to Tommy Dreamer in a Triple Threat Hardcore match, also involving Swagger, at Extreme Rules ... Trying to craft a more macho image, which includes the renaming of his Unprettier finisher to the Killswitch.

29 SAMOA JOE (6'2", 280, 10, 4) Transformed into the one-man "Nation Of Violence" after falling victim to the Main Event Mafia on several occasions ... Booker T took physical possession of Joe's TNA World title belt last summer, and Sting later took legitimate possession of it ... Even lost to mentor Kevin Nash, who is more than 20 years his senior ... He and A.J. Styles formed The Frontline to resist the newly formed MEM, but met with mixed results ... Attacked by the Mafia on the December 18 episode of *Impact*, sidelining him for the rest of the year ... Has systematically targeted MEM members for destruction since returning in January ... Injured MEM's Scott Steiner after attacking him with a machete ... Over-the-top antics have cost him several matches ... Still, Joe's new-found edge may be what he needs to win his second TNA World title.

➔ 30 SUICIDE (6'1", 232, 1, NL) Made the difficult transition from videogame character to thrilling live-action wrestler, similar to how Tiger Mask leapt from the pages of comic books and into the ring in the early-1980s ... Rumors ran rampant that Suicide was really Christopher Daniels ... Threatened The Motor City Machine Guns from the outset, as he seemed poised to invade their X division domain ... Won Alex Shelley's X division title in an Ultimate X match at Destination X ... Made a spectacular dive from the top of the Six Sides of Steel at Lockdown, taking out Kiyoshi and assorted security ... Joined forces with Daniels in his feud with the Machine Guns ... His Suicide Solution is particularly effective, as he flips and releases his opponents in a belly-to-back suplex motion ... Has potential as a long-term presence, assuming he doesn't crash and burn unexpectedly.

27 TO 30

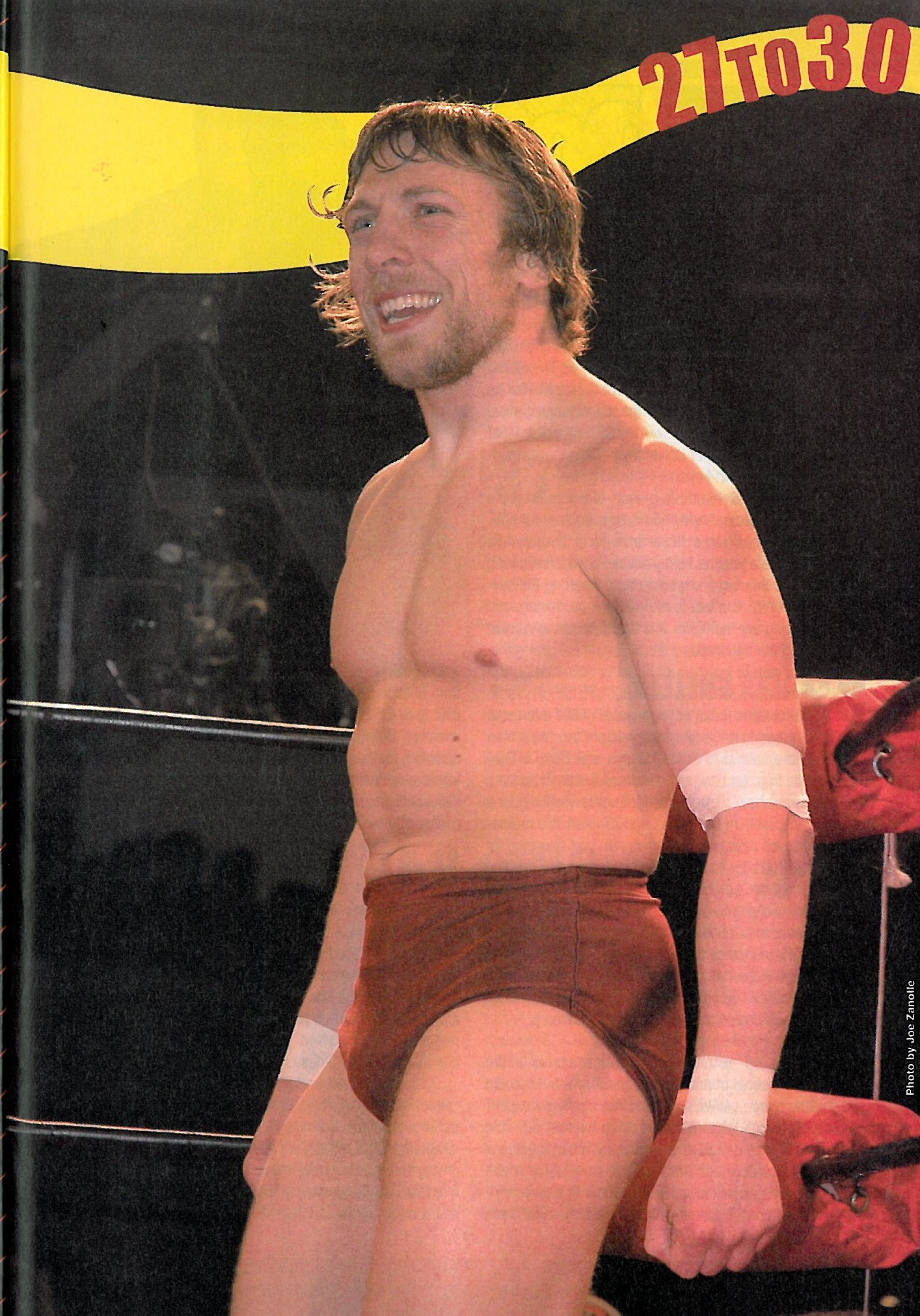
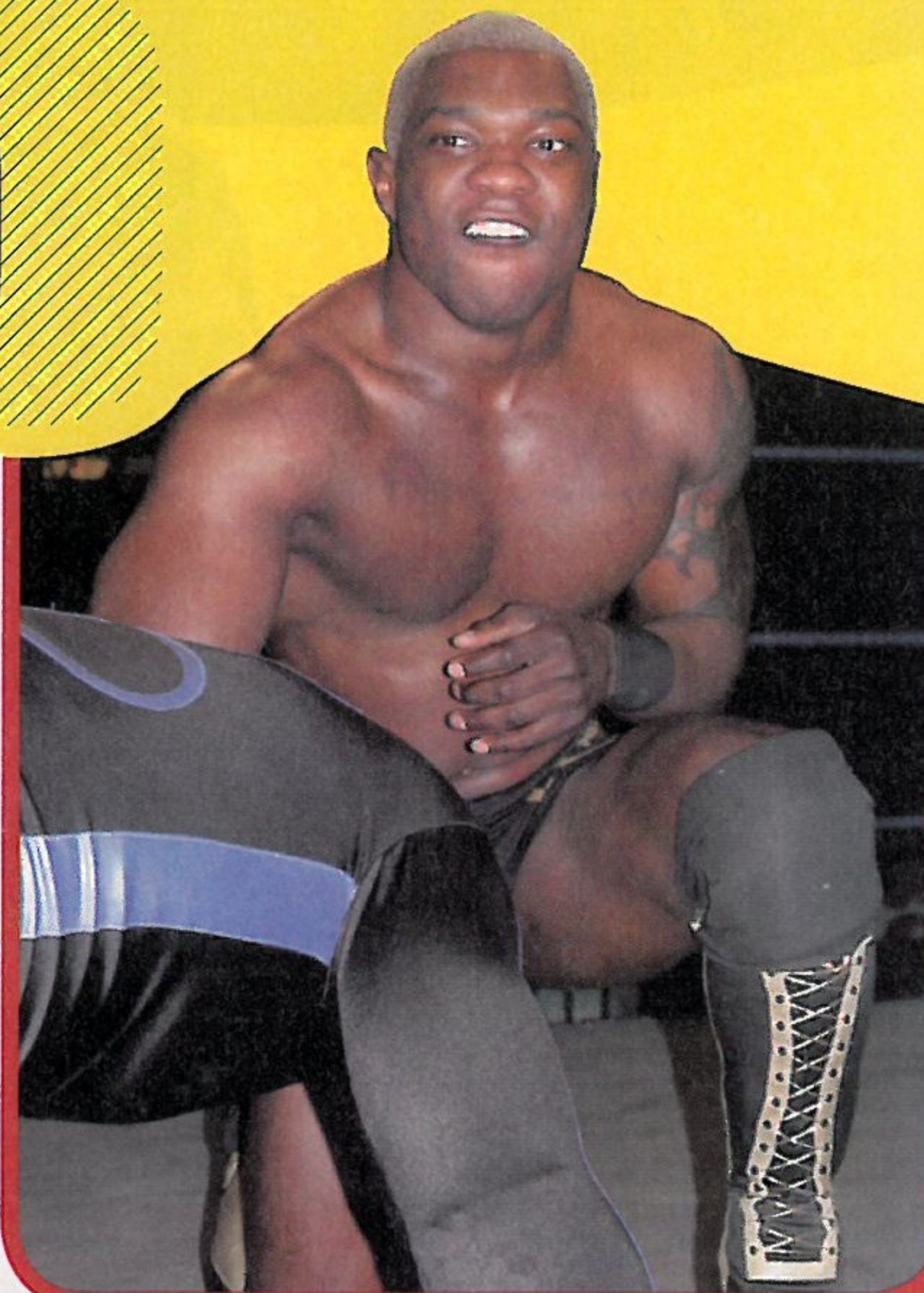


Photo by Joe Zanolle

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➔ 31 **SHELTON BENJAMIN**

(6'2", 248, 9, 62) His 243-day U.S. title reign made this a salvageable year for Benjamin ... Defeated U.S. champion Matt Hardy in a non-title bout last summer, and then beat him for the title at The Great American Bash ... U.S. title reign is more notable for its length than its substance ... Lost the star-spangled strap to Montel Vontavious Porter on the 500th episode of *Smackdown* ... The former University of Minnesota stand-out executes his Paydirt finisher—a leaping reverse STO—with precision ... Benjamin's bleach-blond homage to Butch Reed and Sweet Daddy Siki is no substitute for charisma ... Joining Charlie Haas to re-form The World's Greatest Tag Team was his best possible move, considering *Smackdown*'s thin tag team division ... Entering his seventh year in WWE, the labels of potential, promising, and up-and-coming are fading for this talented star who must start winning the big ones.



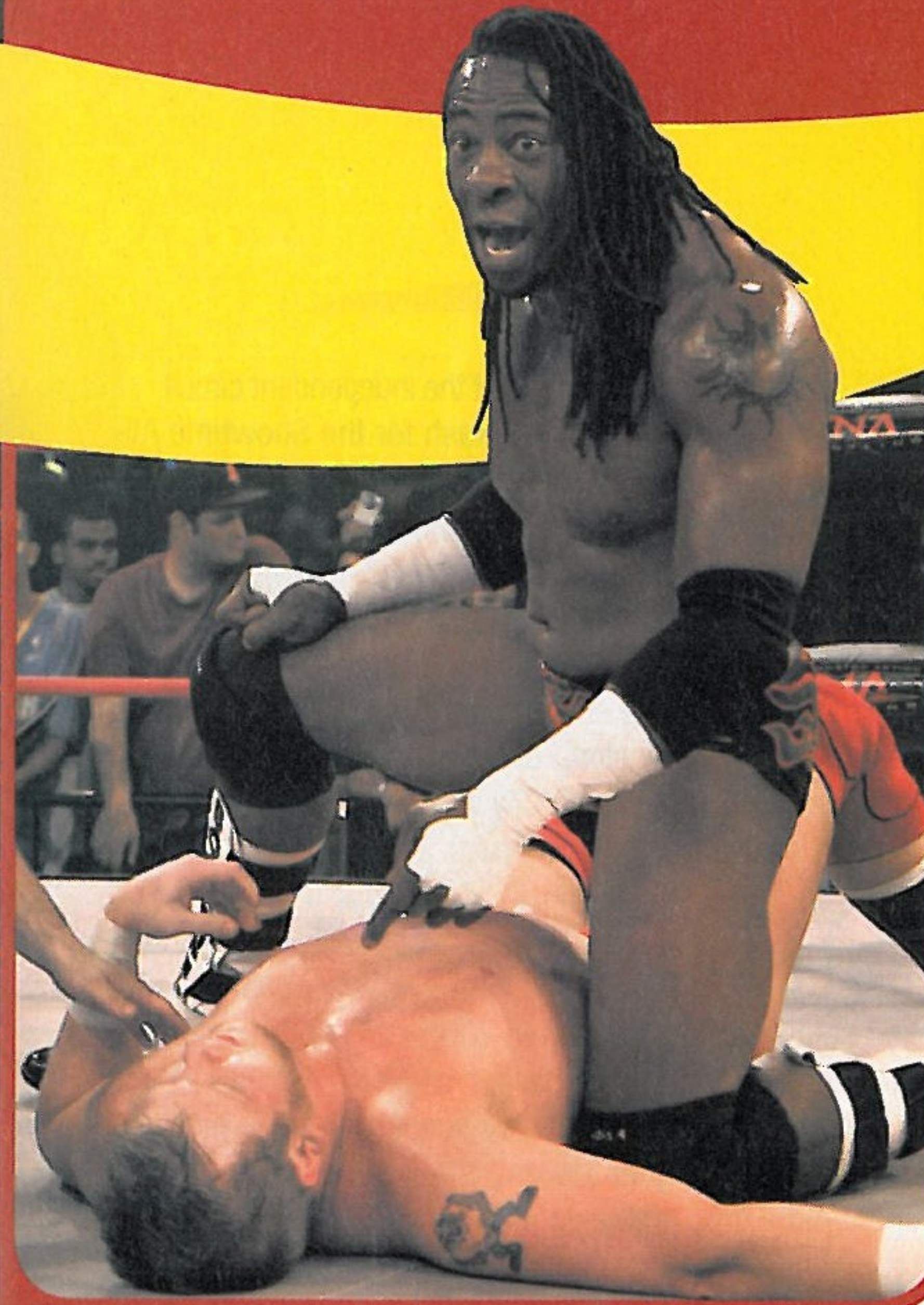
32 ALEX SHELLEY (5'10", 205, 7, 70) He and Chris Sabin have renewed global interest in the IWGP International junior heavyweight tag team title, defending the belts in both New Japan and TNA ... They won the title from No Limit at New Japan's annual January 4 Tokyo Dome show ... Defeated Motor City Machine Guns partner Chris Sabin in the final of an X division title tournament only seven days later ... A man who had struggled for major-league gold for so many years now wore two coveted straps ... Lost the X division belt to Suicide in an Ultimate X match also involving Sabin, Jay Lethal, and Consequences Creed ... Accused Christopher Daniels of masquerading as Suicide ... This led to an unlikely alliance between the Guns and Lethal Consequences, opposing Suicide and Daniels ... Executes the Sliced Bread #2 perhaps even better than Brian Kendrick ... No one calls him "Baby Bear" anymore.

33 MVP (6'3", 249, 6, 23) Now seems on the threshold of main-event stardom—but it could still go either way ... WWE's resident free agent has experienced a career of ups and downs, from his first U.S. title reign, which lasted 343 days, to his five-month losing streak during the second half of 2008 ... Broke his losing streak with a stunning victory over The Big Show in a last-man-standing match on the January 16 broadcast of *Smackdown*,

with significant help from Triple-H ... Regained the U.S. title from Shelton Benjamin on March 17 ... Still, lost a non-title bout to Dolph Ziggler in one of his last *Smackdown* appearances ... Solidified his status as a fan favorite by standing up to Legacy in his Raw debut ... Lost the U.S. belt to fellow fan favorite Kofi Kingston on June 1 ... Using the Drive-By Kick with increasing frequency ... Pursuing Legacy is MVP's passport to the big time.

34 MICK FOLEY (6'4", 280, 25, NL) Made quite a comeback, considering he officially retired in the year 2000 ... Left the *Smackdown* announcers' desk for TNA ... Made his first live TNA appearance on the October 2 episode of *Impact* ... TNA founder Jeff Jarrett introduced Foley as an "executive shareholder" ... Helped Jarrett prevent the Main Event Mafia from running roughshod over TNA ... His jealousy of Sting slowly ruined his relationship with Jarrett ... Beat Sting for the TNA World title inside the Six Sides of Steel on April 19 at Lockdown ... Retained his belt at Sacrifice in a four-way match also involving Jarrett, Kurt Angle, and Sting ... Dropped the belt to Kurt Angle in a five-way King of the Mountain at Slammiversary on June 21 ... Though far past his physical prime, the mandible claw is as effective as ever ... Recently hired Sal and Rocco, formerly of Main Event Mafia security, as his bodyguards.

31 TO 38



35 **KOFI KINGSTON**

(6'1", 218, 4, 76) He may not be a main-eventer quite yet, but there's no disputing Kingston's on the right path ... Enjoyed a months-long undefeated streak in ECW before being drafted to Raw a year ago ... Upset Chris Jericho for the WWE Intercontinental title at last year's Night of Champions PPV ... Held the belt for two months ... Briefly held the World tag team championship with good friend C.M. Punk ... Won a three-way match also involving Matt Hardy and William Regal to earn a shot at Montel Vontavious Porter's U.S. title ... Upset MVP for the strap on June 1 ... Must be on the lookout for Ted DiBiase Jr. and Cody Rhodes coming after him ... His jumping corkscrew roundhouse kick is dubbed Trouble in Paradise ... But nothing beats the awesome simplicity of his flying dropkick ... This Jamaican star seems tattooed with fan favorite status ... Really, can anyone imagine this guy turning bad?

36 **MISTICO**

(5'7", 170, 11, 17) The "Human Highlight Reel's" career has been threatened by constant injuries, but he always manages to return and give awesome performances ... Aided Blue Panther in his feud with the Villanos, and supported him as a second in Panther's mask loss ... Went to the Olympics as part of a Mexican

broadcast team, and performed a few exhibition matches ... Suffered a severe wrist injury that sidelined him for a few months ... Accumulated several victories in main event tag matches, usually teaming with Hector Garza and Shocker ... Continued his long feud with Averno, and their rivalry even spread to Japan ... Lost the CMLL welterweight title to Negro Casas and could not recover it in a rematch ... Involved in a short feud with Dos Caras Jr. ... Makes his opponents submit to a spectacular move called La Mistica.

37 **KANE**

(6'7", 323, 15, 33) A less-than-stellar year for Kane, who lost the ECW title to Mark Henry in a three-way match also involving The Big Show last summer ... No one would have imagined that the "Big Red Machine" would transition to elder statesman status in WWE ... Spent most of the past year as a member of the Raw brand ... Feuded with C.M. Punk ... Defeated Rey Mysterio Jr. and Mike Knox in a three-way match to gain entry into the Money in the Bank match at WrestleMania 25 ... Incensed when Punk won the Money in the Bank briefcase ... Beat Brian Kendrick to earn a draft pick for Raw in the 2009 draft ... Drafted back to *Smackdown* later that night ... Gained a measure of revenge by defeating Punk at Backlash ... Kane must be mellowing; he would've attached Punk to jumper cables in the old days ... Has failed to follow big brother The Undertaker's lead and evolve his repertoire beyond 1999.

➔ 38 **BOOKER T**

(6'3", 253, 19, 34) Became one of TNA's most entertaining performers after turning heel and joining the Main Event Mafia ... Arrogance and envy led him to attack Christian Cage and Rhino last year, and literally steal Samoa Joe's TNA World title belt ... Lost to Joe at Victory Road and Hard Justice ... Introduced the Legends title on the October 23 edition of *Impact*, and, of course, crowned himself the first champion ... Retained the belt against Christian Cage the following month ... Sneak-attacked by A.J. Styles in February ... Lost the Legends championship to Styles at Destination X ... Suffered a humiliating defeat to Styles in an "I Quit" match at Sacrifice when MEM member Jenna Morasca threw in the towel ... Stuck in the middle of a feud between Morasca and his wife, Sharmell ... This former WWE and WCW World champion would love to add the TNA World title to his resume.

Photo by Lee South/TNA Wrestling

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39 TO 42

39 MESIAS (6', 245, 12, 26) Continued his chase for the AAA heavyweight title, but was unsuccessful in the spring ... During the summer he entered into a feud with the returning Vampiro, which included a series of gruesome hardcore matches ... His stable, La Secta, turned on him ... Battled alone against his former friends ... Won the second annual Antonio Pena Memorial Tournament by establishing a record of five straight eliminations ... Won the vacant AAA heavyweight championship by defeating Zorro ... Suddenly turned good and helped Joaquin Roldan battle Konnan and his foreign legion ... Became entangled once again with Chessman and successfully defended his title in a barbed-wire steel cage match ... Also feuded with Dr. Wagner Jr. ... Finishes his opponents with a leaping-reverse STO.

40 JERRY LYNN (5'11", 212, 21, 117) After Lynn lost to Ring of Honor champ Nigel McGuinness in a hard-fought match just over a year ago, fans chanted "Please come back!" ... Lynn heard their cry, and he came back ... Became a full-time member of the Ring of Honor roster while making frequent appear-



Photo by George Napolitano

ances throughout the independent circuit

... Defeated Kid Kash for the Showtime All-Star Wrestling International title in Millersville, Tennessee ... Lost the belt back to Kash a couple of months later ... Won the Hardcore Wrestling Association championship in Puerto Rico earlier this year ... He is also the United Wrestling Association champion ... Scored one of the biggest victories of his career when he ended Nigel McGuinness' 18-month ROH title reign in Houston, Texas, on April 3 ... Lost the title to Austin Aries in New York City on June 13 ... Popularized the cradle piledriver in North America.

41 WILLIAM REGAL (6'2", 240, 26, 55) The former Raw general manager had trouble gaining traction in 2008-09 ... In the midst of the biggest push of his career when a Wellness Policy violation earned him a 60-day suspension one year ago ... Receives a higher ranking this year because he has spent more time on the active roster ... Instead of choosing John Cena's opponents for the main event, he found himself stealing Jamie Noble's girlfriend, Layla El ... Enjoyed a resurgence that began when he won a battle royal to earn a shot at Santino Marella's Intercontinental title ... Trounced Marella in 40 seconds to win his second I-C belt in Manchester, England ... His reign ended two months later when C.M. Punk knocked him senseless with the Go To Sleep ... Struggling on Raw's mid-card since that time ... His running high knee is on par with those of Triple-H and Harley Race ... One of the most respected grapplers in the business.

42 JUN AKIYAMA (6'2", 243, 17, 277) Never quite able to break out of the shadow of Mitsuhashi Misawa and Kenta Kobashi, Akiyama has enjoyed a big 2009 that has taken him back to the top of Pro Wrestling NOAH ... Represented NOAH at New Japan's January Tokyo Dome event and pinned a fellow past amateur wrestling star, Manabu Nakanishi ... Defeated Kensuke Sasaki in March to win the GHC heavyweight championship at Budokan Hall in Tokyo, ending an almost three-year chase to win the title back ... Made his first successful defense against NOAH's bright young hope Go Shiozaki in April ... Has found himself in the difficult position of leading NOAH after the company lost its national television deal ... Favors the deadly Sternness Dust Alpha, a wrist-clutch Death Valley driver, to win big matches.

Photo by Joe Zanolle



43 BROTHER RAY (6'4", 290, 18, 78) The man who once lived and breathed ECW now embodies old-school class in pro wrestling ... Remains the dominant member of Team 3-D ... He and Devon were the only active veterans to become members of the Frontline ... Engaged in a passionate feud with Beer Money Inc. in which Team 3-D seemed just as concerned about teaching Robert Roode and James Storm valuable lessons as kicking their butts ... They beat Togi Makabe and Toru Yano in a hardcore match for the IWGP International heavyweight tag team title in January ... The veterans defeated Beer Money Inc. for the TNA World tag team belts in a Philadelphia Streetfight in April ... Still uses a sit-out full-nelson power bomb ... His brain-child, the Team 3-D Invitational Tournament, could be an institution for years to come ... Lost the titles to Beer Money as Slammiversary

44 TED DiBIASE JR. (6'4", 235, 3, 187) A full year into his WWE tenure, DiBiase has proven to be a first-class talent and a second-rate stooge ... He and Cody Rhodes enjoyed two reigns as WWE World tag team champions until their run was finally ended by C.M. Punk and Kofi Kingston ... Attacked by Randy Orton in a sadistic display of tough love ... Filmed *The Marine 2* during his hiatus from Raw ... Returned to Raw two months later and joined Sim Snuka and Manu in attacking Orton and Rhodes ... That turned out to be a ruse, however, as DiBiase soon joined Orton and Rhodes in beating down Snuka and Manu, marking the formation of Legacy ... Teamed with Orton and Rhodes to beat Triple-H, Batista, and Shane McMahon at Backlash, thereby winning Triple-H's WWE title for Orton ... His fistdrop is the spitting image of his father's ... Must break with Legacy to establish his own identity.

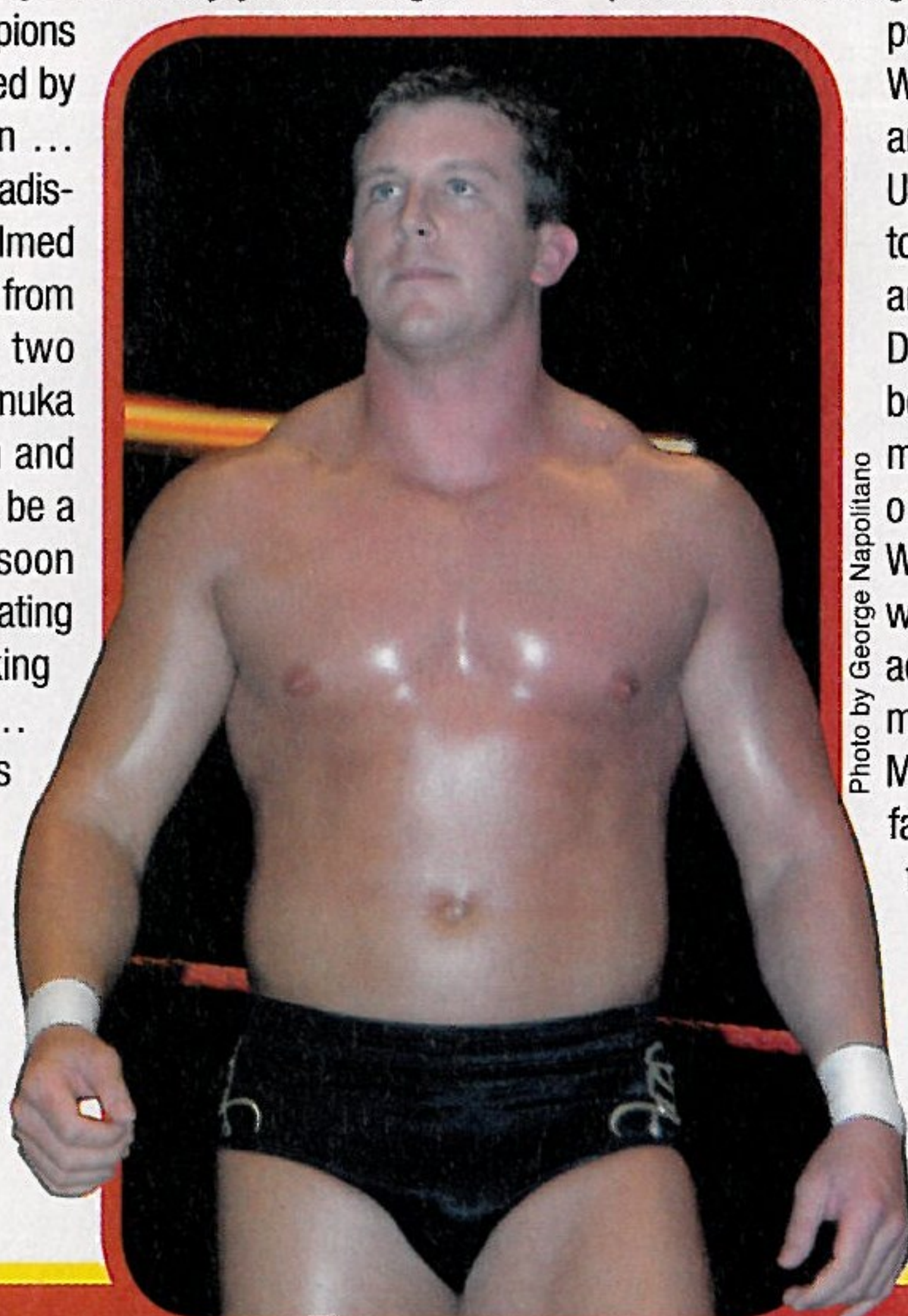


Photo by George Napolitano

45 MARK HENRY (6'3", 392, 13, 65) Held ECW in an iron grip during the summer of 2008 ... Beat The Big Show and defending champ Kane in a three-way match to capture the ECW title at last year's Night of Champions ... Joined by childhood hero Tony Atlas, who molded Henry into an even fiercer fighting force ... Steamrolled virtually everyone on the ECW roster ... Met his demise during the ECW championship scramble at Unforgiven, where Matt Hardy emerged with the silver ... To Henry's dismay, Hardy was the only man he couldn't find a way to beat ... The new champ was simply too clever to fall prey to Henry's one-dimensional power moves, especially the devastating World's Strongest Slam ... Competed in the 1996 Olympic Games as a power-lifter ... Trained by Canadian legend Leo Burke ... Unable to regain the confidence it took him so long to attain ... Maybe it's time for a new manager.

46 JOHN MORRISON (6', 219, 6, 43) Found himself in the uncomfortable—if not painful—position of backing up The Miz' mouth for most of the past year ... The duo won the WWE World tag team title from C.M. Punk and Kofi Kingston in December ... Used their web show, *The Dirt Sheet*, to instigate feuds with Evan Bourne and Ricky Ortiz, Cryme Tyme, and DeGeneration X ... Lost tag team belts in a title-unification lumberjack match with WWE tag team champions Carlito and Primo Colon at WrestleMania 25 ... His relationship with The Miz turned sour after he accidentally got Miz disqualified in a match against Kofi Kingston ... The Miz was drafted to Raw ... Turned fan favorite after getting into a scuffle with Chris Jericho on *Smackdown* ... Using his Starship Pain finisher, a corkscrew split-legged moonsault, more often ... Should focus on regaining the Intercontinental title—and toning down his ring garb.

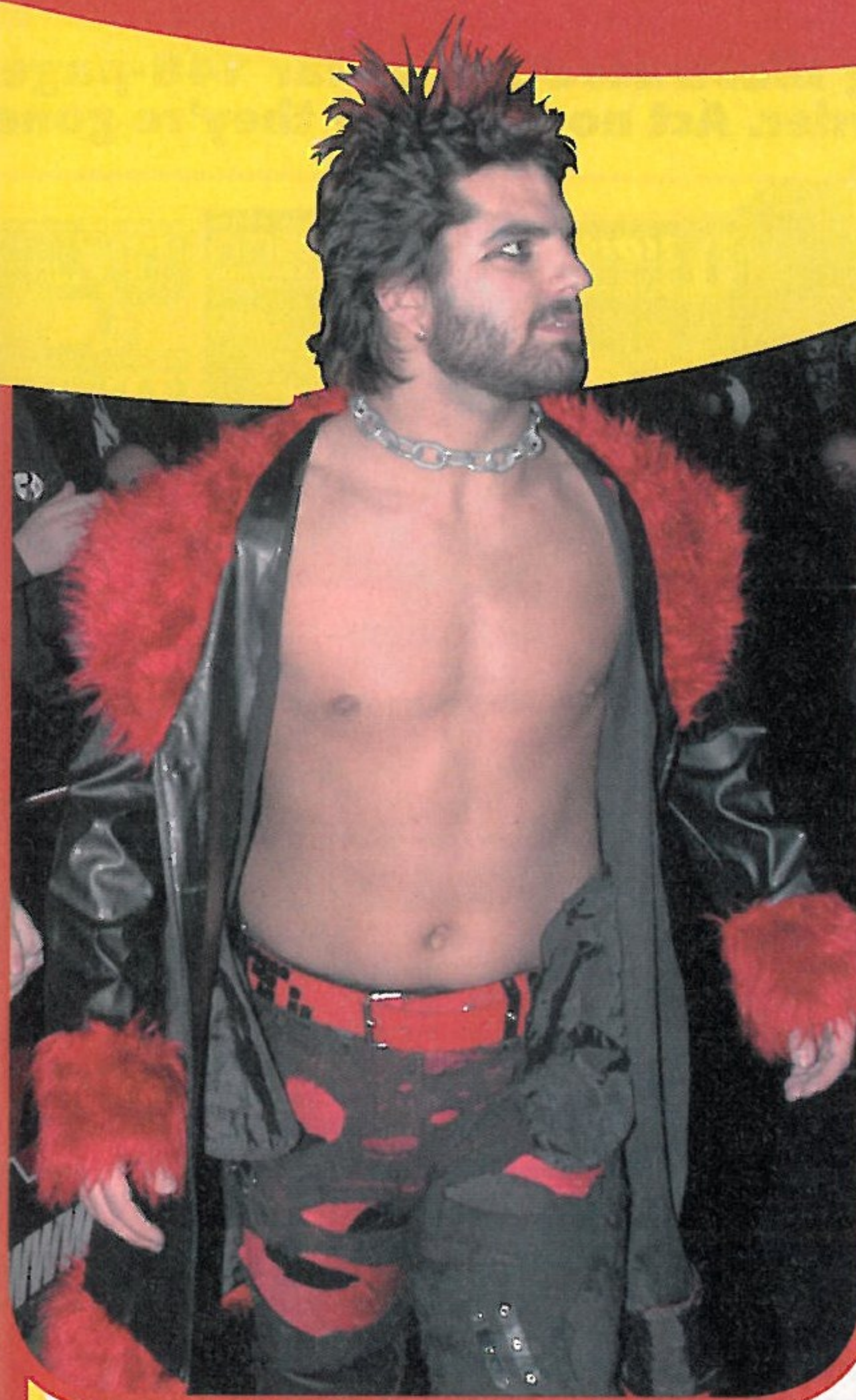


Photo by Joe Zanolle

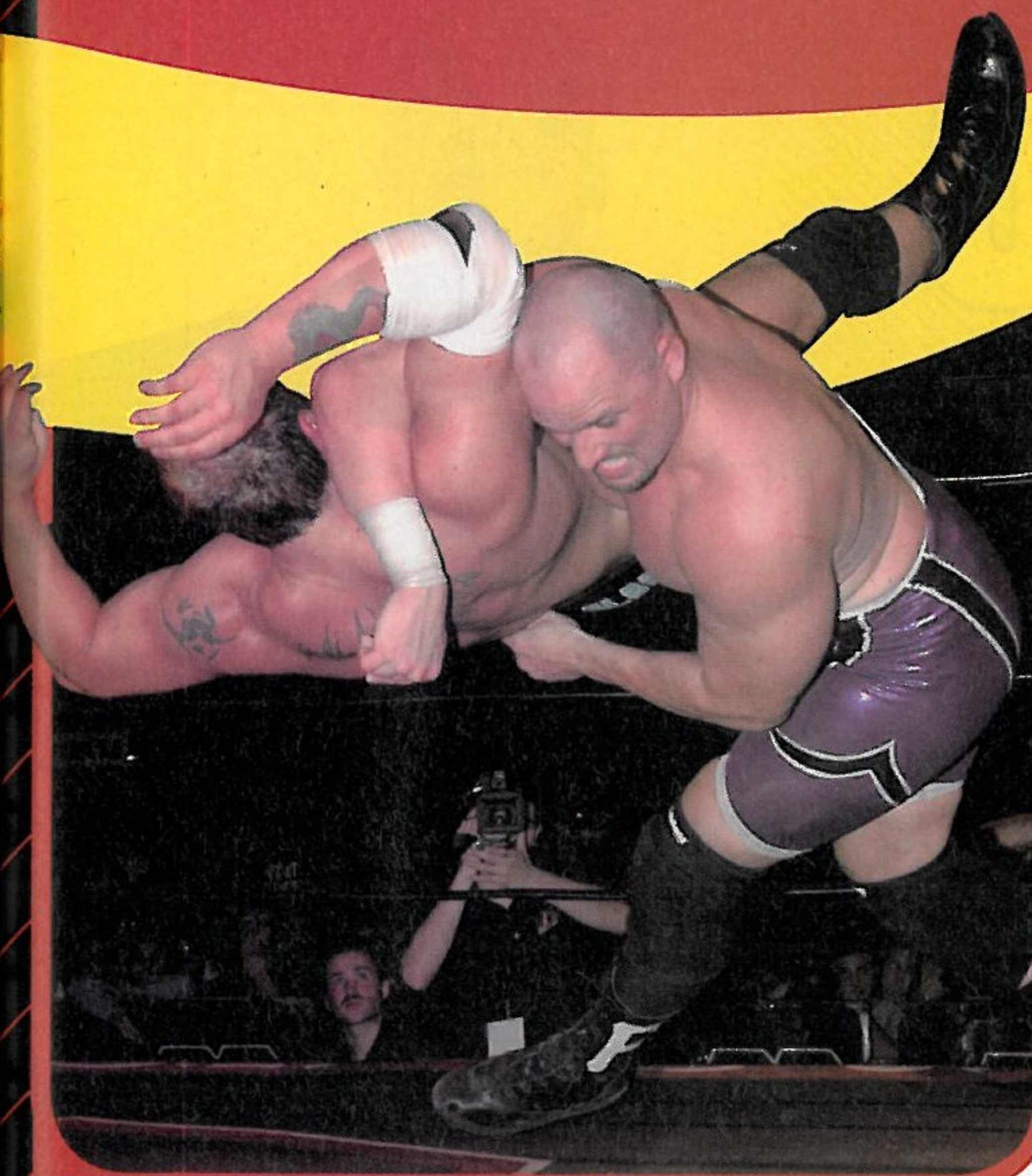
DiBiase Jr. have been the most consistent duo in WWE, although they haven't held tag team gold since losing to C.M. Punk and Kofi Kingston in October ... Their feud with John Cena and Batista last summer solidified their upper mid-card status ... Legacy has failed to boost Rhodes as Evolution boosted Orton; Rhodes and DiBiase are nothing but a hit squad for the "Legend Killer" ... They make Brisco and Patterson seem like rebels ... Introduced the Cross-Rhodes, a rolling cutter, to his arsenal this year ... May be a future world champion, if charisma is genetic.

49 BROTHER DEVON (6'1", 270, 18, 82) Enjoyed far more success this year than last ... Rumors of Team 3-D's retirement have been so rampant because of Devon's desire to spend more time with his family ... He and Brother Ray were the only active veterans to side against the Main Event Mafia ... Adopted the MEM's mantra when he joined Brother Ray in teaching Beer Money Inc. about respect ... Team 3-D beat Togi Makabe and Toru Yano in a hardcore match for the IWGP International heavyweight tag team title on January 4 at New Japan's Tokyo Dome show ... They defeated Beer Money Inc. for the TNA World tag team belts in a Philadelphia Street Fight on April 19 ... Co-sponsored the \$100,000 Team 3-D Invitational Tag Team Tournament, which was won by Beer Money ... His flying headbutt from the top rope is still a crowd-pleaser.

47 FINLAY (5'10", 233, 31, 56) Served as an effective veteran presence in ECW over the past year ... Handcapped by having Hornswoggle as a tag team partner in his feud with John Morrison and The Miz ... Competed in the ECW championship scramble at Unforgiven, which Matt Hardy ultimately won ... Scored a big win over Mark Henry to earn a shot at Hardy's belt ... Less successful in that encounter ... His most impressive victory of 2008 was beating Mark Henry in a Belfast Brawl at Armageddon ... Ended Jack Swagger's undefeated streak by beating him on the February 3 episode of *ECW On Syfy* ... Failed to beat Swagger in an actual heavyweight title match at No Way Out ... His Celtic Cross finisher is a running modified piledriver ... Has recovered from an eye injury ... May regain his vicious edge now that he doesn't have to serve as a role model to his son.

48 CODY RHODES (6'1", 219, 3, 79) What must Dusty Rhodes think of having a son as ruthless as any of the Four Horsemen? ... Cody and Ted

50 JIMMY JACOBS (5'7", 173, 10, 74) The already haunted Jacobs went on more of an emotional roller-coaster in 2008-09 ... Lost his girlfriend, Lacey, to Austin Aries ... He and Tyler Black lost the Ring of Honor tag team title to Kevin Steen and El Generico in September ... Watched as Black's career caught fire and his Age of the Fall faction diminished in relevance ... Beat Aries in a wild no-disqualification match on October 25 ... Submitted to Aries' Last Chancery in a bloody dog-collar match two weeks later ... Tapped out to Aries' crossface in an "I Quit" match, their third encounter of the series ... Blamed Black for the loss ... Formed an unlikely alliance with Aries to put Black out of wrestling ... His senton bomb is comparable to Jeff Hardy's ... It wouldn't be hard to imagine Jacobs and Black battling each other for the ROH title someday, if Jacobs can get past his paranoid insecurities.



51 TO 54

51 ADAM PEARCE (6'2", 248, 13, 44) The head booker for Ring of Honor is also a cornerstone of the NWA ... Barely survived his violent feud with Brent Albright over the NWA title last year ... Lost the belt to Albright by submission on August 2 in New York City ... Came out on the losing end of an important rematch in Mexico City ... Regained the NWA championship from Albright at a Ring of Honor show in the old ECW Arena in Philadelphia ... Talk about a cross-pollination of wrestling history ... Dropped the belt to Blue Demon Jr. on October 25 in Mexico City ... Replaced Gabe Sapolsky as ROH booker the following day ... Utilizes a jumping piledriver when brass knuckles aren't available ... Got his start in a Midwestern cadre of talented wrestlers that included Ace Steel, Danny Dominion, Kevin Quinn, Colt Cabana, and C.M. Punk ... A third NWA title reign is not out of the question.

52 CHRIS SABIN (5'10", 205, 9, 69) Rapidly becoming the silent partner in The Motor City Machine Guns as Alex Shelley morphs into the second coming of Chris Jericho ... That said, there's no disputing the Machine Guns' success and diehard cult following ... Shows more respect for the fans than his fellow wrestlers ... Sabin and Shelley quickly lost interest in being members of the Frontline, the hastily formed faction intended to resist the Main Event Mafia ... They defeated No Limit for the

IWGP International junior heavyweight tag team title on January 4 at New Japan's Tokyo Dome show ... Lost to Shelley in a tournament final to determine the new TNA X division champion at Genesis ... He and Shelley became obsessed with figuring out the identity of Suicide ... Why didn't they try Wikipedia? ... TNA's best practitioner of the Cradle Shock, a cross-legged Samoan driver ... Seems to genuinely have fun in the ring.

53 VLADIMIR KOZLOV

(6'6", 302, 4, 149) Vows to destroy all Americans in his path to the top ... Defeated virtually every mid-card and under-card wrestler on the Smackdown roster last summer ... Inserted himself into the rivalry between WWE champion Triple-H and Jeff Hardy by attacking both men ... Hardy's stairwell incident turned their scheduled three-way into a lumbering one-on-one match between Helmsley and Kozlov at Survivor Series ... Smackdown GM Vickie Guerrero's mid-match addition of Edge saved the bout ... Edge won the belt and Kozlov was forced to regroup ... Defeated ECW champ Matt Hardy in a non-title bout at Armageddon ... TV winning streak ended when Shawn Michaels beat him on March 2 ... Became more militaristic upon his draft to ECW ... His battering ram proves the simplest moves can be the most effective ... Likely to target Christian as his next steppingstone.

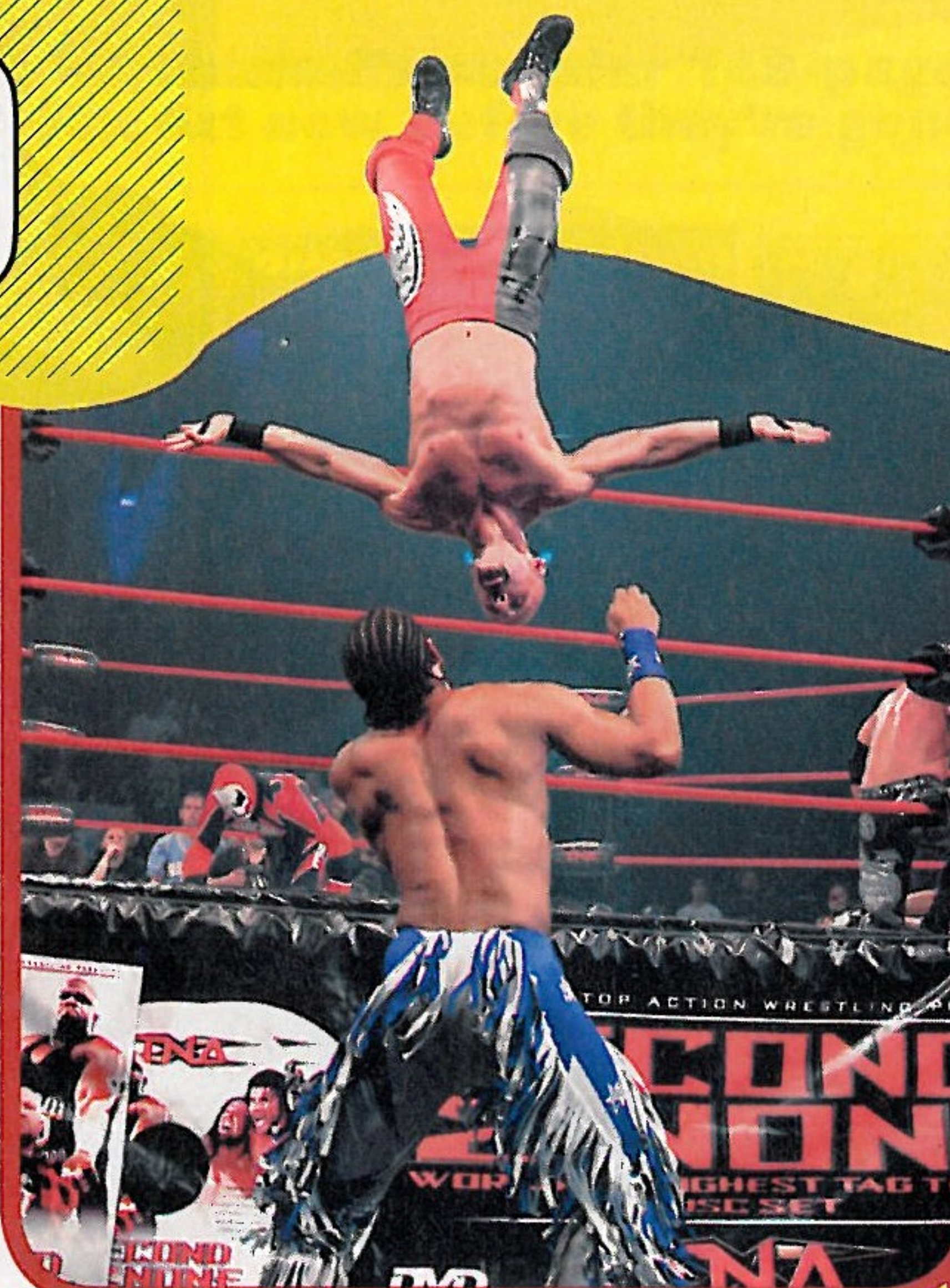
54 KENSUKE SASAKI (5'11", 254, 23, 30) The Japanese powerhouse remains one of the most recognizable figures in the country, regularly making TV appearances with his wife, retired women's wrestling legend Akira Hokuto ... Has managed to get his Kensuke Office promotion up and running well, promoting regular shows built around himself, protégé Katsuhiko Nakajima, and other of his young trainees ... After losing All Japan's Triple Crown last April, he jumped to Pro Wrestling NOAH and in September defeated Takeshi Morishima to win the GHC heavyweight championship ... The title win made him the first person in history to hold the heavyweight titles of Japan's "big three"—New Japan, All Japan, and NOAH ... Despite losing the title to Jun Akiyama in March, remains a regular fixture in NOAH along with his students ... Painful power moves are Kensuke's forte, with the lariat and Northern Light Bomb two of his most destructive.

Photo by Joe Zanolle

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55 ROBERT ROODE (6', 230, 11, 38) He and James Storm recently celebrated their one-year anniversary as a tag team ... Indeed, Beer Money Inc. has made everyone forget about America's Most Wanted ... They engaged in a vicious feud with The Latin American Xchange last summer and emerged with the TNA World tag team title ... Turned back the challenges of The Motor City Machine Guns and the team of Matt Morgan and Abyss ... Beer Money lost the belts to Lethal Consequences, but quickly regained them in January ... Targeted veterans Brother Ray and Brother Devon ... Lost the straps to Team 3-D in a Philadelphia Street Fight at Lockdown ... Won the belts back at Slammiversary ... Has blended the styles of his two childhood heroes, Rick Rude and Curt Hennig ... Payoff suplex is an homage to Hennig's Perfect-Plex ... Trained by Shane Sewell and Val Venis ... Assumed to be on WWE's wish list.

Photo by Lee South/TNA Wrestling

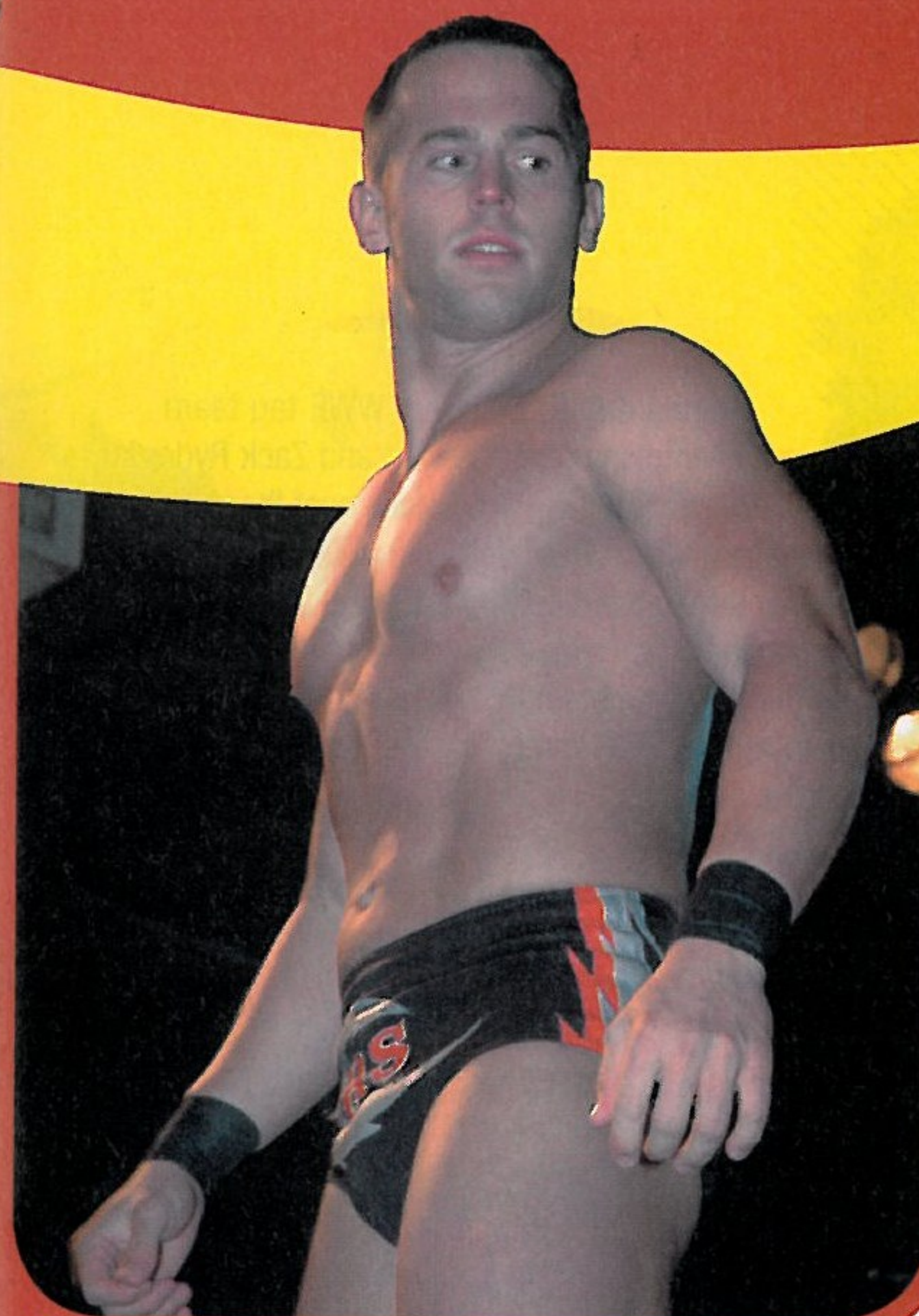


56 THE MIZ (6'1", 231, 6, 54) Who will fare better since their breakup: John Morrison or The Miz? ... WWE Creative had long groomed Morrison as a future main-eventer, but it's The Miz who is face-to-face with John Cena on Raw ... Held the WWE and World tag team titles with Morrison ... Lost the World tag team belts to WWE tag champs The Colons in a lumberjack title-unification bout at WrestleMania 25 ... Morrison unintentionally caused Miz to lose a match to Kofi Kingston on the April 13 edition of *Raw*, earning the flagship brand a pick in the upcoming draft ... The pick turned out to be The Miz, who attacked his old partner ... Unwisely incurred The Big Show's wrath in his campaign to embarrass Cena ... His finishing move is the Reality Check, a running kneelift into a neckbreaker slam ... Must capitalize on this golden opportunity to become a main-event player.

57 DR. WAGNER JR. (5'10", 210, 23, 28) The doctor of good continues to leave his mark on Lucha Libre ... Started another feud with Perro Aguayo Jr. and lost a match with the stipulation that he'd join the Perros del Mal stable ... Refused to enter the group ... Revived his feud with L.A. Park in a singles match during the CMLL Anniversary show ... Walked out of CMLL again because the company didn't allow him to battle Park under hardcore rules ... Returned to the independent circuit to battle foes like Blue Demon Jr. and El Hijo del Santo ...

Successfully defended his UWA heavyweight title against Cibernetico and Fuerza Guerrera ... Worked a few AAA house shows, teaming with brother Silver King ... Made his AAA debut by challenging Mesias for the title ... Joined Joaquin Roldan's team to battle Konnan's Foreign Legion ... His finisher is the Wagner driver.

58 DANIELS (6', 224, 16, 95) Renewed intensity has enabled Daniels to make a big impact on TNA ... Spent most of 2008 as Curry Man—until the masked star got a pink slip in TNA's annual Feast or Fired match, just as Daniels had received a year earlier ... Made his return on the April 16 edition of *Impact* as a mystery opponent for Kurt Angle ... Failed to lift his shoulder when the two men were in a double-pin predicament, giving Angle the win and the Main Event Mafia the advantage in their upcoming Lethal Lockdown battle with Team Jarrett ... Denied The Motor City Machine Guns' allegations that he was really Suicide ... Appeared to beat Suicide for the X division title at Sacrifice, but refused the victory when he realized Alex Shelley had interfered ... Lost a close one to good friend A.J. Styles on television ... Best Moonsault Ever is, well, one of the best moonsaults ever ... Established himself as an upper mid-card talent since his return.



59 JAMES STORM (6', 230, 8, 42) The proud beer-drinking brawler has found the perfect partner in Robert Roode ... Took a while to find his rhythm with Roode at first, with the duo losing to the Latin American Xchange, The Motor City Machine Guns, and the team of Samoa Joe and Kevin Nash soon after their formation ... Smashed a beer bottle over Homicide's head en route to Beer Money Inc. capturing the TNA World tag team championship at Hard Justice ... His Last Call superkick has scored plenty of victories for Beer Money, including their win over Lethal Consequences for their second World tag team title in January ... He and Roode lost the belts to IWGP International heavyweight tag team champions Team 3-D in a Philadelphia Streetfight at Lockdown ... Won the \$100,000 Team 3-D Invitational Tag Team Tournament ... Recaptured the TNA World tag team title from Team 3-D at Slammiversary on June 21 ... Signed a multi-year deal with TNA on May 14.

60 YOSHIHIRO TAKAYAMA (6'5", 275, 17, 164) The imposing Takayama has finally started to approach the heights that made him the most feared competitor in Japan earlier this decade ... Just shy of three years after coming back from a stroke that nearly ended his career, Takayama returned to his old home,

All Japan Pro-Wrestling, as a member of the Gurentai faction with old friend Minoru Suzuki ... Defeated The Great Muta to win the Triple Crown in March, following Kensuke Sasaki as the second man to capture the heavyweight titles of New Japan, All Japan, and NOAH ... Despite failing to reach the final of All Japan's Champion Carnival tournament, he defeated the winner—close friend and Gurentai cohort Suzuki—in a subsequent title defense ... Still occasionally appears in NOAH as well as Antonio Inoki's IGF promotion ... Some call his Everest German suplex the best in the business.

61 RODERICK STRONG (5'10", 212, 8, 103) Competes for the top companies on the indy scene, including Ring of Honor, Full-Impact Pro, and Pro Wrestling Guerrilla ... He might have suffered more losses this year, but his "PWI 500" ranking is actually higher, a recognition of his stable veteran status and proven talent ... Seems a bit directionless since his falling-out with Davey Richards and the dissolution of the No Remorse Corps ... Now a respected fan favorite ... Particularly dominant in Full-Impact Pro in previous years, but has failed to regain the promotion's heavyweight title since losing it to Erick Stevens in a dog-collar match ... Expert in backbreakers the world over, from the Canadian to the Argentine ... Should make a more serious run for the Ring of Honor title considering he's been a staple of the company for six years now ... Whatever happened to Sedrick?

62 BRIAN KENDRICK (5'8", 184, 10, 111) Enjoys the distinction of being the longest-reigning interim WWE champion of all-time ... That factoid isn't as impressive as it first sounds, but Kendrick did manage to remain interim champion for approximately 10 minutes while holding off Shelton Benjamin, Jeff Hardy, and Montel Vontavious Porter before falling prey to Triple-H's Pedigree at Unforgiven '08 ... This is the first year in recent memory that Kendrick can be judged truly on his own merits, considering he became a singles star after the 2008 supplemental draft split Kendrick from longtime partner Paul London and sent him to Smackdown ... Became a solid mid-card attraction on the blue brand ... Sent to Raw in the 2009 talent draft ... Now lost in the shuffle ... Case in point: Kendrick and Festus recently lost to Goldust and Hornswoggle ... Popularized the Sliced Bread #2 in North America.

Photo by Joe Zanolle

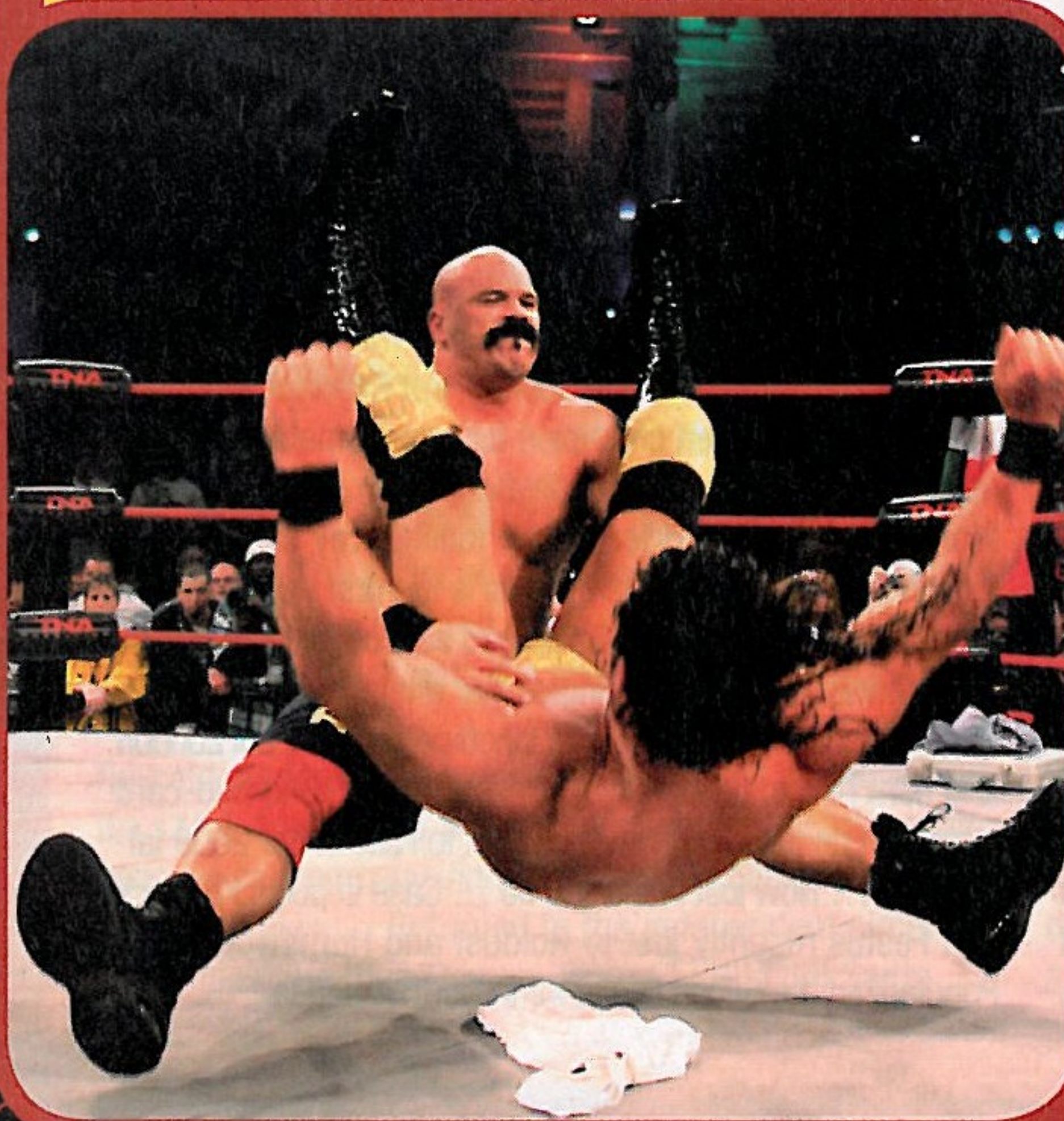
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63 EVAN BOURNE (5'10", 183, 8, 215)

Had occupied the unofficial "Rising Star" spot in ECW before being traded to Raw as the "500" fiscal year concluded ... Received the call-up from Florida Championship Wrestling and debuted in ECW on June 3 of last year ... Teamed with Rey Mysterio Jr. for a memorable victory over John Morrison and The Miz on Raw ... Received a huge vote of confidence from the fans when they chose him to face ECW champion Matt Hardy at Cyber Sunday ... Lost to Hardy in a close one ... Dislocated his right ankle and tore his deltoid ligament during a six-man tag team match ... Sidelined for five months ... Scored disqualification and countout victories over Mark Henry, and a win over Tony Atlas ... May be the greatest practitioner of the shooting star press ever.

➔ 64 CARLITO (5'10", 220, 9, 63)

Thank heaven for little brothers ... The arrival of Carlito's younger brother, Primo, revitalized this mid-carder's career just before he was wished the best of luck in his future endeavors ... Carlito caused barely a ripple when he was sent to Smackdown in the 2008 supplemental draft ... Teamed with Primo, who was making his Smack-



down debut, to defeat WWE tag team champions Curt Hawkins and Zack Ryder in a non-title bout ... The Colons beat them for the title two weeks later ... Defeated John Morrison and The Miz for the World tag team belts in a title-unification match at WrestleMania 25 ... He and Primo were officially drafted to Raw in the 2009 supplemental talent draft ... Dropped the belts in a three-way match at The Bash to Edge and Chris Jericho.

65 YUJI NAGATA (6', 238, 17, 57) "Mr. IWGP"

remains one of the most impressive stars in an increasingly youth-oriented New Japan Pro-Wrestling, constantly providing a threat for the young guns ... Defeated Masato Tanaka to win ZERO1's heavyweight title last October on home soil before entering enemy territory and successfully defending it several times ... An attempt by Tanaka to win the title back on New Japan's January Tokyo Dome event failed, but Nagata finally relinquished his grip in February to former New Japan dojo friend Shinjiro Otani ... Has returned his attention to the IWGP heavyweight championship back home in New Japan but has so far been unable to earn a shot at the title he successfully defended 10 times from 2002 to 2003 ... A recent feud with old-friend-turned-villain Takashi Iizuka saw two bloody chain matches, the first of which Nagata lost before gaining sweet revenge in May.

⬅ 66 HERNANDEZ (6'2", 285, 13, 72)

His career hasn't been the same since he and Homicide lost the TNA World tag team title to Beer Money Inc. at last year's Hard Justice ... Actually, his career hasn't been the same since Konnan quit as manager of The Latin American Xchange ... Won a TNA World heavyweight title shot in the Feast or Fired match at Genesis ... Earned his biggest victory of the year in a disqualification decision over World champion Sting ... The fact that the Main Event Mafia had to save Sting's title speaks to Hernandez' considerable ability ... His Border Toss, a throwing crucifix power bomb, is a sight to behold ... Attacked by The British Invasion during the April 30 edition of Impact ... Hasn't appeared on TV since that time because he is recovering from a neck injury ... Has the mobility and ring presence to be a main-event star ... In desperate need of repackaging.

Photo by Lee South/TNA Wrestling

63 TO 66



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67 CLAUDIO CASTAGNOLI (6'5", 240, 8, 52) "Double-C" is very reminiscent of Triple-H ... A former Ring of Honor mid-carder who is now a serious threat to Austin Aries' ROH title ... An upset victory over Bryan Danielson one year ago propelled him to the top tier ... Fell victim to then-champion Nigel McGuinness' jawbreaker lariat in a sensational match in Detroit last year ... Lost to McGuinness again in a rematch in New York City ... Eliminated by Danielson in a four-way Ring of Honor title match also involving Tyler Black and defending champ McGuinness ... In an uncharacteristic move, Castagnoli attacked Danielson, making him an easy elimination for McGuinness ... Lost to Full-Impact Pro champion Erick Stevens ... A globally known independent star ... Master of the Ricola Bomb, a straightjacket lift into a sit-out power bomb ... Hails from Schaffhausen, Switzerland.

68 RHINO (5'10", 275, 15, 61) His career has been directionless since his brief—yet successful—partnership with old friend Christian Cage dissolved in the fall of 2008 ... Should have recog-



Photo by Lee South/TNA Wrestling

nized the warning signs when he found himself helping Taylor Wilde, ODB, and Rhaka Khan in their feud with The Beautiful People and Cute Kip ... Scored a feel-good victory for his fans with a decisive win over Sheik Abdul Bashir at Turning Point ... His most important contribution in 2008-09 might have been persuading Team 3-D to join the Frontline against the Main Event Mafia ... His biggest in-ring victory occurred when he beat TNA World champion Sting in a non-title bout on the December 4 edition of *Impact* ... Lost to Sting in a title match at Genesis ... His Gore is the sport's most dangerous variation of the spear ... Now training former U.S. Navy officer Jesse Neal for a career in the ring.

69 MANABU NAKANISHI (6'1", 265, 17, 176) New Japan Pro-Wrestling's resident powerhouse had been a massive underachiever since representing Japan in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, but 2009 has seen change ... Continued a recent trend of buckling in big matches with losses to Jun Akiyama, Yutaka Yoshie, and Hirooki Goto, as well as a failed reunion with former IWGP tag team championship co-holder Takao Omori ... In May, he shocked the world by defeating Hiroshi Tanahashi to win the IWGP heavyweight championship for the first time in his 17-year career, turning what seemed like a routine defense for Tanahashi into an unforgettable upset ... Lost the title in a rematch with Tanahashi on June 20 ... Enjoys some non-wrestling fame as a regular guest on a popular national TV show in Japan.

70 CHRIS HERO (6'3", 211, 11, 58) Down a few notches from the 2008 "PWI 500," but the man who claims to be from Metropolis still had a super year ... Scored strong wins over Roderick Strong, Pelle Primeau, and Delirious in Ring of Honor last summer ... Surpassed his first anniversary as Pro Wrestling Guerrilla champion ... Defeated Human Tornado for the title on July 6, 2008 ... Lost to Low-Ki in the final of the Battle of Los Angeles tournament ... Retained the belt against Colt Cabana and former champ Joey Ryan ... Close to breaking Ryan's record as longest-reigning titleholder ... Known for his Hangman's Clutch finishers, which are variations of the facelock ... Still remembered for pinning C.M. Punk for the IWA: Mid-South title in a match that lasted more than 90 minutes back in 2003 ... Would make the perfect rival for WWE World champion C.M. Punk in WWE.



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Jarrett after losing to him in their King of the Mountain qualifier bout ... Slapped down interviewer Jeremy Borash ... Walked out on Rhino during a tag team match ... His finishing maneuver is the Showstopper, a bridging wheelbarrow suplex ... Poised for a run as an upper mid-card heel.

73 TYSON KIDD (5'9", 195, 14, 241) Enjoyed the best year of his career in 2008-09 ... Formerly known by his real name, T.J. Wilson ... The 28-year-old had perhaps the most experience of anyone who has ever entered the WWE developmental program, considering he debuted

71 SCOTT STEINER (6'1", 275, 23, 64) Scott Steiner is to the Main Event Mafia what Scott Norton was to the New World Order—no better than a street thug ... The MEM has given Steiner's career new life; he's no longer judged by his win-loss record, but his effectiveness in helping the group as a whole ... "Big Poppa Pump" came back from a torn ACL last year ... Attacked former protégé Petey Williams upon his October return ... Dusted off the vertical suplex piledriver he used in the 1990s to punctuate the end of his feud with Williams ... Completely dominated by Samoa Joe ... Scored a much-needed clean win over Robert Roode on the June 25 edition of *Impact* ... He and Booker T have the potential to be a successful duo in TNA ... Would love to add the TNA World tag team title to his illustrious resume ... Uses his lead pipe more often than the Steiner Recliner as of late ... A former WCW World champion.

72 ERIC YOUNG (6', 225, 9, 60) Begged for his shot at the big time for most of the past year ... Put the silly "Super Eric" character behind him ... Got serious when he joined the Frontline to fight the Main Event Mafia ... Seemed to score the biggest win of his career by pinning Sheik Abdul Bashir for the TNA X division title, but Managing Director Jim Cornette stripped Young of the title because of Shane Sewell's biased officiating ... His frustration started to bubble ... Slapped Danny Bonaduce on his Philadelphia radio program and defeated him at Lockdown's pre-show match ... Lost to Sting ... Turned on mentor Jeff

at age 15 and wrestled at a WWF show in Calgary at age 16 ... The final student to come out of the Hart Dungeon, with much of his training coming from Davey Boy Smith ... Held the Florida Championship Wrestling tag team title with David Harry Smith for two months last year ... Defeated Bao Nguyen on the February 10 episode of *ECW on SyFy* ... Managed by longtime girlfriend Natalya ... Soon formed The Hart Dynasty with Smith and Natalya ... The Code Blue, a springboard front flip neckbreaker, is his finisher ... Also uses a springboard elbowdrop ... A former Stampede North American heavyweight and British Commonwealth mid-heavyweight champion.

74 KENTA (5'8", 180, 9, 97) One of the hardest hitting and most impressive junior heavyweights in Japan, KENTA remains an integral part of Pro Wrestling NOAH ... He and regular tag partner Taiji Ishimori dropped the GHC junior tag team championship to Yoshinobu Kanemaru and Kotaro Suzuki last July but bounced back by defeating the same team in September to win the NTV junior tag team tournament ... Returning his main focus to singles action in the same month, ended the short GHC junior heavyweight championship reign of Bryan Danielson ... Recently feuded with Kensuke Office star Katsuhiko Nakajima, losing the title to him this February before winning it back just a few weeks later ... Remains the GHC junior champion and the top junior heavyweight in NOAH ... Master of the Go To Sleep, a move he created that sees him drop the victim from a fireman's carry position into a brutal knee to the face.

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75 CHESSMAN (6', 230, 14, 102) The "Apostle Of Evil" has become more vicious and violent than ever ... Battled then-AAA champion Mesias for the title ... Turned on longtime friend Cibernetico and his Black Family stable ... Formed a brief alliance with the undefeated Psycho Circus to win the National Atomic tag team title ... Was later stripped of the title by Commissioner Vampiro ... Started a feud with Vampiro and joined Konnan's Foreign Legion to take out the commissioner ... Rekindled feud with Mesias, and battled him in several hardcore matches ... Challenged for the title again, but lost due to interference by Charley Manson ... Feuded with Manson for several months ... Takes out his opponents with a powerful spear.

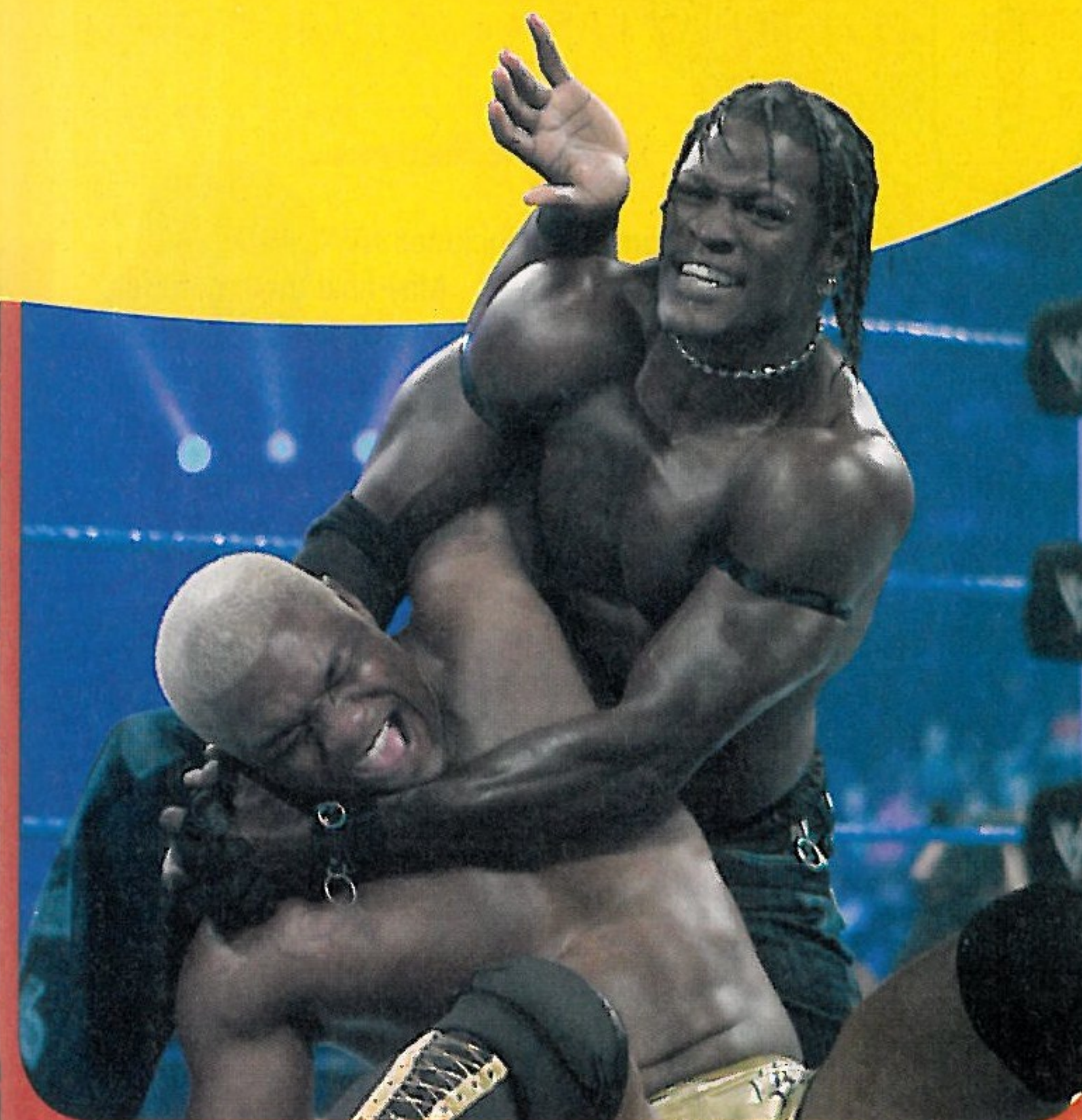
76 PRIMO COLON (5'10", 218, 10, 163) Established himself as a tag team specialist during his first year in WWE ... Expressed his dislike for brother Carlito's nonchalant attitude in a backstage conversation with Raw General Manager Mike Adamle ... Moved from Raw to Smackdown after only one match ... Immediately joined forces with Carlito, defeating WWE tag

team champions Curt Hawkins and Zack Ryder in a non-title match in their very first match together on Smackdown ... Beat Hawkins and Ryder for the belts two weeks later ... They defeated WWE World tag team champions John Morrison and The Miz in a title-unification bout at WrestleMania 25 ... Both Colons became official members of the Raw roster in the 2009 supplemental draft ... Carlito and Primo, however, continued to defend the Unified tag team championship on all three brands until losing the belts to Edge and Chris Jericho at The Bash ... Adopted Carlito's Backstabber maneuver and his father's figure-four leglock as preferred finishers.

77 DAVEY RICHARDS (5'8", 205, 5, 107) Currently holds championships in Full-Impact Pro and Ring of Honor ... Defeated Tyler Black for the FIP title by forfeit on May 2 ... Formed The American Wolves with Eddie Edwards ... They went on a rampage under Larry Sweeney's guidance, attacking Kevin Steen with a lead pipe and sidelining Mark Briscoe with a leg injury ... Handpicked by Nigel McGuinness to be his partner in a losing effort against KENTA and El Generico ... Lost to former mentor KENTA in a GHC junior heavyweight title match in Houston ... Received a standing ovation after the match nonetheless ... He and Edwards beat Steen and Generico for the Ring of Honor tag team belts in a Tables Are Legal match on April 10 ... Lost to Bryan Danielson in the first round of Pro Wrestling Guerrilla's Battle of Los Angeles last year ... Utilizes a double-underhook piledriver and brainbuster.

78 ERIC ESCOBAR (6'3", 246, 9, 179) Embarked on a singles career after Puerto Rican Nightmares partner Eddie Colon (a.k.a. Primo Colon) went to WWE ... They held the Florida Championship Wrestling tag team title on three occasions ... Battled Snitsky in a Raw dark match and Tommy Dreamer in a Smackdown dark match last September ... Captured the FCW heavyweight championship in a four-way match also involving Joe Hennig, Drew McIntyre, and defending titleholder Sheamus O'Shaunessy on December 11 ... Dropped the belt to Hennig on February 26 ... Defeated Jimmy Wang Yang twice in dark matches, including one prior to the 500th episode of *Smackdown* on March 17 ... His signature maneuvers include a lifting DDT, spinning sideslam, and full-nelson slam ... Formerly known by his real name, Eric Perez ... A former WWC Puerto Rico champion.

Photo by George Napolitano



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win the belt, but he and Benjamin have been enemies ever since ... Now, with no title at stake, R-Truth holds several victories over Benjamin ... Humiliated by Benjamin's verbal beatdown on the June 26 *Smackdown* ... Recently began using a corkscrew flying elbow ... Formerly known as K-Kwik in WWE ... Wrestled under his real name of Ron Killings in TNA ... A former NWA heavyweight champion.

81 JAY BRISCOE (6', 205, 9, 49) Reduced his schedule somewhat in 2008-09, with the vast majority of his matches taking place in Ring of Honor ... Rejoined by brother Mark, who was recovering from a wrist injury in July 2008 ... The Briscoe Brothers seemed to win just about every match placed before them except when championship gold was at stake ... They

scored routine victories over teams such as The Irish Airborne and The American Wolves, but fell short in bouts against Ring of Honor tag team champions Kevin Steen and El Generico ... That's quite a turnaround for the five-time ROH tag team champs ... Lost to Brent Albright in a rare singles match on October 24 ... He and Mark earned one of the biggest victories of their careers, a win over the Latin American Xchange, four days later ... Opponents fear his double-underhook piledriver.

82 HIROOKI GOTO (6', 227, 6, NL) New Japan Pro-Wrestling's biggest mover of the last year, the young and fiery warrior stunned everyone by winning the prestigious G1 Climax tournament last August by pinning Togi Makabe in the final ... Was unable to follow up effectively on his sudden rise to fame as he lost his subsequent IWGP heavyweight championship shot against Keiji Muto quite convincingly ... Several other singles match losses followed, appearing to relegate him back down the card ... Bounced back in 2009 by winning the New Japan Cup tournament in March when he beat Giant Bernard in the final ... Failed to win the IWGP belt from Hiroshi Tanahashi, but fought well in a half-hour match and gained more acceptance as a major star of New Japan's young generation ... Finishes matches with the Shouten, a powerful vertical suplex side slam.

79 HOMICIDE (5'10", 205, 16, 67) The former Ring of Honor champion is struggling to find his niche in TNA ... He and Hernandez, collectively known as the Latin American Xchange, have been out of the TNA World tag team title picture since losing the belts to Beer Money Inc. at Hard Justice '08 ... Suffered an eye injury when bashed with James Storm's beer bottle during the match ... He won an X division title shot in the annual Feast or Fired match at Final Resolution, indicating a change in career direction ... Nothing came of the title shot, nor did Homicide become a serious contender in the X division ... Made a triumphant return to ROH on October 24 when he and Hernandez, substituting for The Motor City Machine Guns, won a four-way match also involving Kevin Steen and El Generico, Tyler Black and Jimmy Jacobs, and Chris Hero and Davey Richards ... His back-to-back double-underhook piledriver is quite impressive.

80 R-TRUTH (6'1", 228, 12, 94) Departed TNA in late-2007 following controversy over his no-show at a TNA/New Japan joint event ... Signed with WWE ... Defeated Kenny Dykstra on the August 29 broadcast of *Smackdown* ... Fans chose him over Festus and Montel Vontavious Porter to face U.S. champion Shelton Benjamin at Cyber Sunday ... Failed to

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83 JAY LETHAL (5'9", 192, 7, 27) He and Consequences Creed comprise Lethal Consequences, who have turned out to be The Motor City Machine Guns' most persistent rivals over 2008-09 ... Signed a multi-year deal with TNA on April 24 ... Singles career petered out during a lackluster feud with Sonjay Dutt last year ... Learned that love hurts when former fiancée So Cal Val hit him with a low blow, causing him to lose a ladder match to Dutt last September ... Emerged victorious in a Steel Asylum match at Bound for Glory to become the top contender to the X division belt ... Lost the title match to champion Sheik Abdul Bashir ... Won a TNA World tag team title shot in the annual Feast or Fired match at Final Resolution ... Teamed with Consequences Creed to upset Beer Money Inc. for the championship ... Lost the belts back to Beer Money at Genesis ... Nails the elbowdrop from the top rope with even more impact than Randy Savage.

84 STEVE CORINO (6'1", 225, 15, 170) Finally gave up the masquerade as Mr. Wrestling III ... Specializes in collecting old-school championships, with the WWF Universal title being his most recent addition ... Defeated Ray Gonzales for the belt on February 7 ...



Photo by Lee South/TNA Wrestling

Resumé also includes NWA, AWA, and ECW title reigns ... May hold the record for the most titles won on the independent circuit ... Feuded with B.J. and Eugene in the WWF during 2008-09 ... Now in his fourth reign as Pro Wrestling Zero1 U.S. champion ... Uses moves such as the lariat, superkick, and brainbuster ... Nicknamed the "King Of Old School" ... Bristles at the notion of Ricky Landell stealing his old-school mantle ... Realized a childhood dream when—as Mr. Wrestling III—he held the Hawaii Championship Wrestling tag team title with Mr. Wrestling II in 2007-08.

85 SHEIK ABDUL BASHIR (5'10", 203, 9, 224) Dominated TNA's X division for the second half of 2008 ... Captained Team International in the 2008 World X Cup ... Beat Jay Lethal in his *Impact* debut ... Won the X division title in a three-way match also involving Consequences Creed and defending champ Petey Williams last September ... His feud with referee Shane Sewell caused him to lose the X belt to Eric Young at Final Resolution ... Lost to Sewell at Genesis ... Tied up, hung upside down, and tortured by Samoa Joe backstage ... Figured there was safety in numbers and has entered a loose alliance with The British Invasion and Kiyoshi ... WMDs were found in TNA—in the forms of his Weapon of Mass Destruction snap DDT and his WMD driver ... The ex-WWE star competed on the indy circuit under his real name, Shawn Daivari, before joining TNA ... Signed a multi-year deal with TNA on June 27.

86 MATT MORGAN (7', 305, 7, 126) Positioning himself to become a member of the Main Event Mafia ... Denied that privilege when he lost to Sting in a special stipulation match at Slammiversary, but seems to be on much better terms with new leader Kurt Angle ... Blamed Abyss for their failure to win the TNA World tag team title from Beer Money Inc. last year ... Beat Abyss in a Match of 10,000 Tacks and a Domsday Chamber of Horrors match ... Nearly beat Kurt Angle in a highly competitive bout ... Could easily see a clash between Morgan and Kevin Nash in a battle for the "Big Man" spot in MEM ... His Carbon Footprint bicycle kick is simple, yet devastatingly effective ... Still employs the Hellevator, a vertical suplex sideslam, which he also used in WWE ... Pursued pro wrestling after his pro basketball aspirations were dashed ... On a trajectory to become a main-event star.



Photo by Joe Zanolle

87 MIKE KNOX (6'6", 293, 11, 151) This behemoth has been bounced around all three WWE brands over the past year ... Lost his final match in ECW—a scramble qualifier for last year's Unforgiven—to Finlay ... Resurfaced with the Raw brand in November, scoring a win over D-Lo Brown and attacking Evan Bourne, Kofi Kingston, and Rey Mysterio Jr. ... Avoids picking on people his own size ... His greatest glory of 2008-09 occurred at a house show in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, where he won a battle royal to gain entry into the Elimination Chamber match at No Way Out ... Eliminated by Chris Jericho in that bout ... Sent to Smackdown in the 2009 supplemental draft ... Defeated R-Truth in his Smackdown debut ... His finishing maneuver is a spinning reverse STO ... Trained in California's Ultimate Pro Wrestling ... In danger of devolving into another Snitsky.

88 DOS CARAS JR. (6'5", 210, 9, 73) As the son of Dos Caras and nephew of Mil Mascaras, the "Hercules Potosino" continued to wrestle fair matches, using his MMA and technical skills ... Rumors circulated that he would be jumping to WWE, and he started working fewer matches in Mexico ... Lost the CMLL heavy-weight title to Ultimo Guerrero, which reinforced the rumors of his imminent departure from the company ... Decided to stay with CMLL ... Started walking away from partners in several main event tag matches ... Became the first luchador in the prestigious wrestling family to turn heel and aligned himself with Texano Jr. and Terrible ... Formed an alliance with Japanese stable No Limit ... Started a heated feud with Shocker, as well as Mistico and Hector Garza ... Pins his opponents with a devastating German suplex.

89 BRENT ALBRIGHT (6', 236, 7, 120) Compiled a solid win-loss record and brief championship glory, but still awaiting his breakthrough year ... Split his time between Ring of Honor and the NWA ... Forced Adam Pearce into submission to win the NWA title in New York City on August 2, 2008 ... Successfully defended the title against Go Shiozaki and Trevor Murdoch, among others ... Lost the belt back to Pearce in Philadelphia on September 20 ... Resumed his war with Larry Sweeney's Sweet 'n' Sour Inc. by steam-rolling Chris Hero and Davey Richards ... Formed tag team partnerships with Erick Stevens and Roderick Strong ... Uses the half-nelson suplex and sharpshooter ... Trained by Michael Modest in California's All-Pro Wrestling ... Known as Gunner Scott while on WWE's undercard ... Jim Ross' affection for this Oklahoma native might pay off someday.

90 JTG (6'1", 230, 7, 185) He and Cryme Tyme partner Shad Gaspard enjoyed a high-profile stint as John Cena's cohorts during his feud with John Bradshaw Layfield last year ... The "Cryme Tyme Cenation," otherwise known as the CTC, was short-lived ... Cryme Tyme failed to regain the tremendous momentum they had during their last go-round in WWE ... Failed in WWE World tag team title matches against Ted DiBiase Jr. and Cody Rhodes and later John Morrison and The Miz ... Cheated to gain entry into the 2009 Royal Rumble ... Lasted 12 minutes until eliminated by The Undertaker ... He and Gaspard were sent to Smackdown in this year's supplemental draft, but have failed to make much of an impact ... Specializes in the diving cross-body, the diving leg lariat, and the diving forward facebuster ... At 24 years old, has the talent to mature into a major star.

83 TO 90

91 NAOMICHI MARUFUJI (5'9", 200, 11, 90) One of the most exciting stars in Pro Wrestling NOAH, Marufuji has won every main title in the company despite still being only 29 years old ... Has continued to bounce back and forth between wrestling heavyweights and juniors and competes well with heavier wrestlers ... Invaded his original home, All Japan Pro-Wrestling, last September and defeated Ryuji Hijikata to win the AJPW junior heavyweight championship ... Successful defenses against KENTA (60-minute draw), Shuji Kondo, Tsuyoshi Kikuchi, and NOSAWA Rongai followed ... Finally dropped the belt to Kaz Hayashi in February in a classic match that lasted more than 30 minutes ... Promoted his own show under the NOAH banner on March 15 this year but was unable to wrestle due to an injury ... A trickster in the ring and a master of his often-emulated finisher, the Shiranui.

➔ 92 EDDIE EDWARDS (6', 190, 7, NL) Enjoyed a breakthrough year in Ring of Honor ... A solid member of Larry Sweeney's Sweet 'n' Sour Inc. ... Took on a number of different partners during Sweet 'n' Sour's feud with Erick Stevens ... Formed The

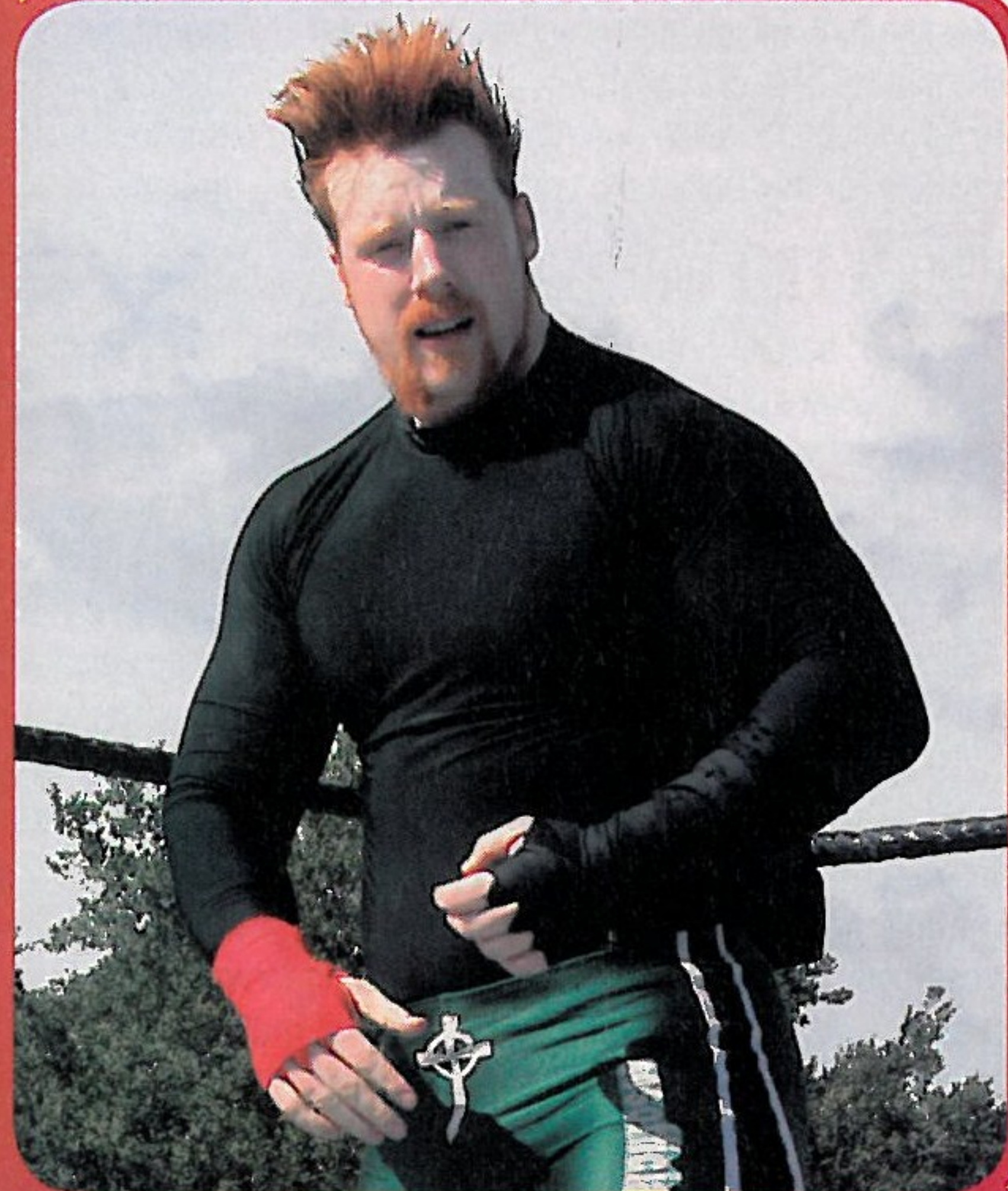


Photo by Robert Beukema

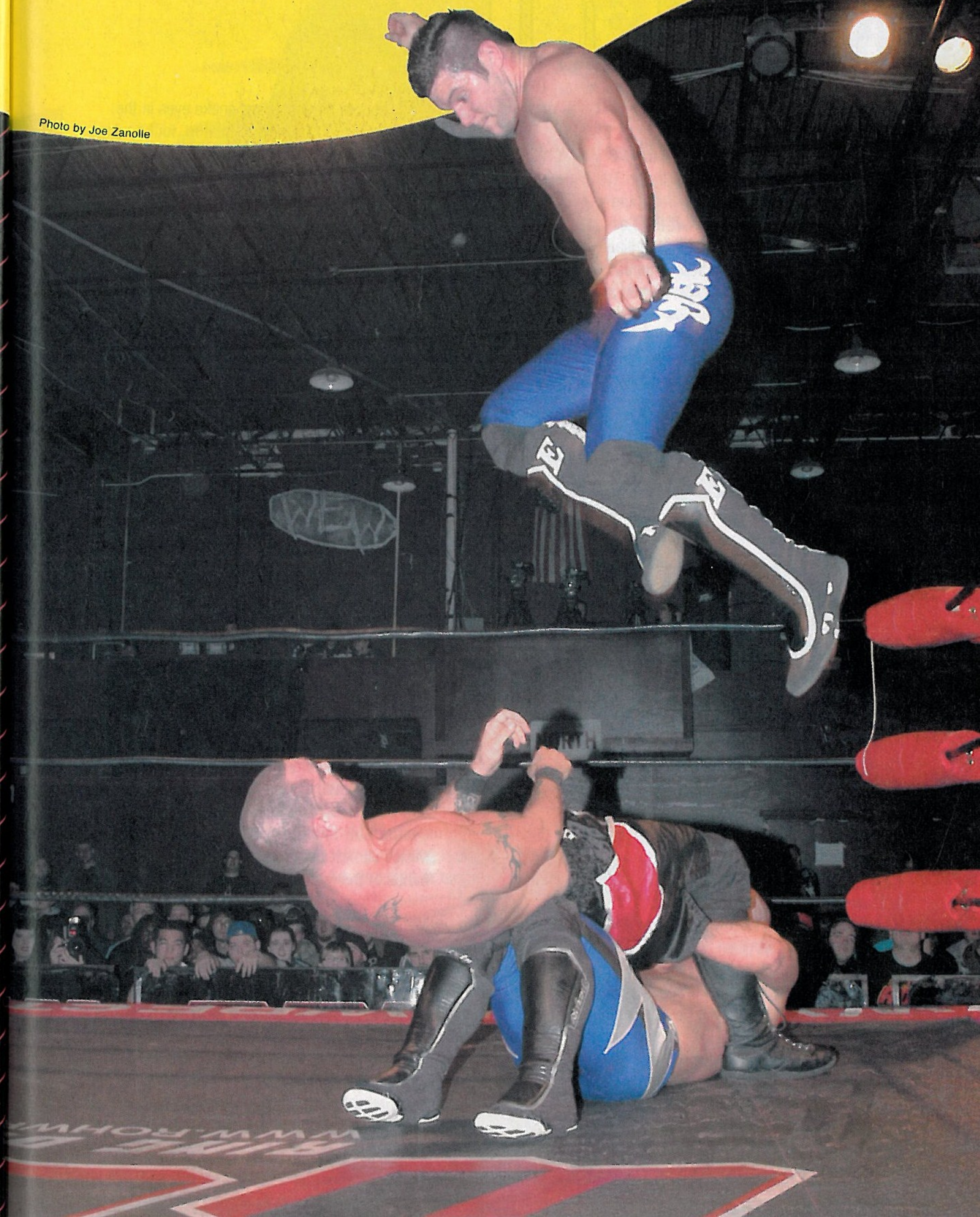
American Wolves with Davey Richards under Sweeney's guidance in late-2008 ...

They lost in their first two outings and displayed unsportsmanlike conduct by injuring Mark Briscoe ... The Wolves lost several matches to ROH tag team champions Kevin Steen and El Generico ... Struck gold on April 10 by defeating Steen and Generico in a Tables are Legal match ... Retained the belts against Steen and Generico in a submission match in New York City ... Pursued by Tyler Black, Bryan Danielson, and a hodgepodge of teams, but a cohesive threat has yet to emerge ... Utilizes versions of the stunner and fisherman buster.

93 CONSEQUENCES CREED (5'9", 202, 4, 195) This 22-year-old star continues to dazzle the Impact Zone ... Making the most of his time with tag team partner Jay Lethal, learning all the right moves to be a star ... He and Lethal comprise the appropriately named Lethal Consequences tag team ... They upset Beer Money Inc. for the TNA World tag team title in January ... Soon lost the belts back to Beer Money ... Demonstrated the potential to be a top singles star when he defeated Sheik Abdul Bashir to become the number-one contender for Petey Williams' X division title last year ... Repeatedly attacked by Bashir, who weaseled his way into the picture by making it a three-way match for the X title ... Bested by Bashir in that one ... Shows that Apollo Creed razzle-dazzle with his MonteFisto, three left-hand punches followed by some splits and a right-hand hook.

⬅ 94 SHEAMUS (6'6", 290, 7, 226) This Irish lad seems on the verge of a full-time call-up ... Recently defeated Jamie Noble at two house shows and in one Raw dark match ... Impressed WWE scouts in a losing effort to Ron Killings prior to *Smackdown* last year ... Currently enrolled in WWE's developmental program in Florida Championship Wrestling ... Used the Irish Curse (a bicycle kick) to defeat Jake Hager (Jack Swagger) for the FCW title on September 18, 2008 ... Lost the belt to Eric Escobar in a four-way match also involving Joe Hennig and Drew McIntyre on December 11 ... The Celtic Slam is his version of the Death Valley driver ... A native of Dublin, Ireland ... Served as a bodyguard for U2's Bono ... His combination of size, power, and ethnicity should appeal to WWE ... If Finlay can be a mentor to Hornswoggle, why not Sheamus?

Photo by Joe Zanolle



PWI 500

95 SHAD GASPARD (6'6", 270, 6, 177)

He and JTG comprise Cryme Tyme ... They haven't gained much traction since returning to WWE more than a year ago ... Enjoyed a short-lived association with John Cena during his feud with John Bradshaw Layfield ... They stole the WWE World tag team title belts during their feud with Ted DiBiase Jr. and Cody Rhodes ... Failed to win them legitimately at Unforgiven '08 ... Cryme Tyme was sent from Raw to Smackdown in the 2009 supplemental draft ... Shad's Timberlands give his running high kick added force ... Resembles Kevin Nash when he does his big

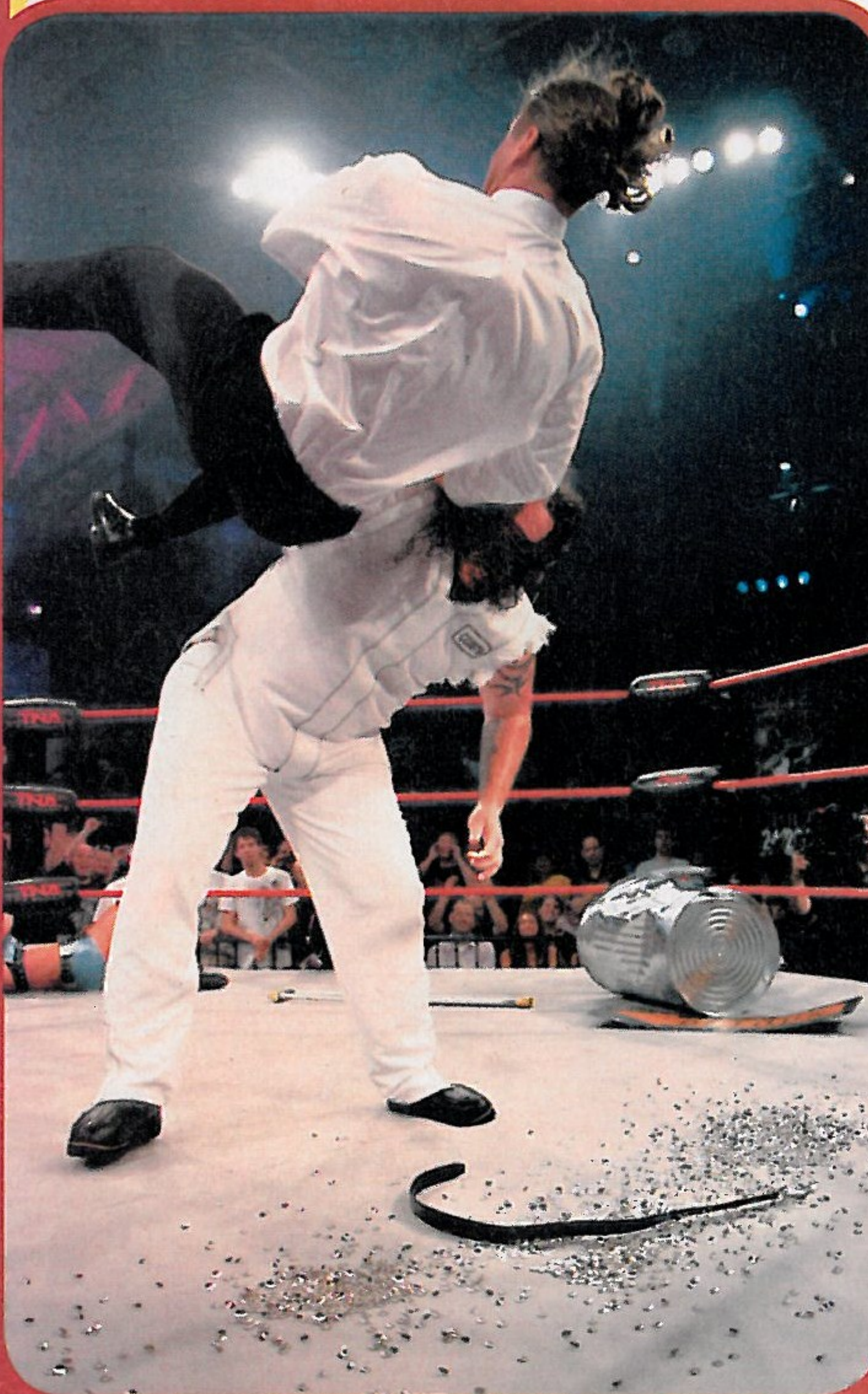


Photo by Lee South/TNA Wrestling

foot to the throat and snake eyes in the corner ... Trained in boxing, kickboxing, mixed martial arts, and toughman competition ... It would be nice to see Cryme Tyme steal a few more victories in 2009-10.

96 ABYSS (6'10", 350, 10, 104)

It's safe to say that his ongoing therapy with Dr. Stevie turned out to be a debacle ... Formed a promising team with Matt Morgan, having a good run against Team 3-D last year ... His split with Morgan led Abyss to suffer from the same old feelings of rejection and humiliation ... Defended his "girlfriend," Lauren, from Morgan's bully tactics ... Sought counseling from Stevie Richards, who initiated tough-love therapy ... Lost to Morgan in two of his specialties, a Match of 10,000 Tacks and a Doomsday Chamber of Horrors match ... Dr. Stevie prevented Abyss from drawing blood in the Doomsday match, denying him a victory ... Regained his senses when Dr. Stevie ordered him to attack Taylor Wilde in her Monster's Ball match against Daffney ... Received electro-shock therapy from Dr. Stevie in the form of a taser at Slammiversary ... His Black-Hole Slam is still a top-notch finisher.

97 SANTINO MARELLA (5'10", 227, 5, 91)

Sacrificed his in-ring credibility for pure comedy in 2008-09 ... Won his second WWE Intercontinental title in an intergender tag team match at SummerSlam '08 pitting him and Beth Phoenix against then-Intercontinental champ Kofi Kingston and Women's champion Mickie James; both belts were allowed to change hands in the bout as a result of Glamarella's tag team victory ... Aspired to break The Honky Tonk Man's record for longest I-C champion ... Fell well short of that goal, even losing to Honky Tonk by disqualification at Cyber Sunday ... Rumored to have masqueraded as "Santina" Marella to win a female battle royal to become "Miss WrestleMania" ... Feuded with Raw General Manager Vickie Guerrero over the Miss WrestleMania title ... Has a terrific MMA background ... Utilizes a diving headbutt ... Still no decision on whether "Santina" will be eligible for the "PWI Female 50."

95 TO 100

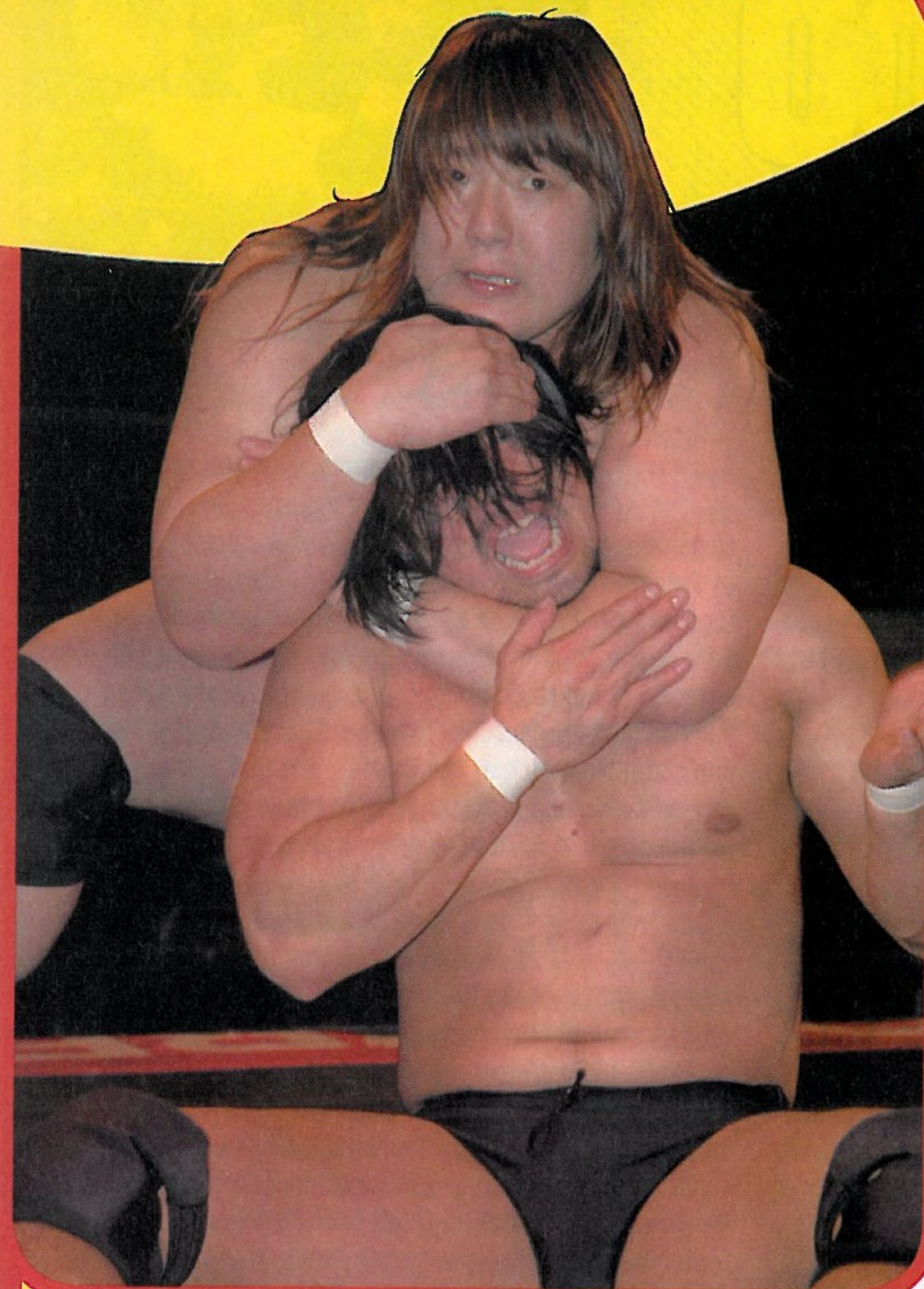


Photo by Joe Zanolle

the talent to compete in the big leagues, but proud of his exploits in the Detroit-Windsor area.

99 BLUE PANTHER (5'6", 220, 31, 313)

Considered one of the toughest veterans in the business, Panther faced the hardest year in his career ... Revived his feud with the Imperial Dynasty, focusing mainly on his nemesis Villano V ... The feud continued in several tag and singles matches, and it finally culminated in a mask-vs.-mask match ... Lost his prestigious mask at the hands of Villano V ... Many fans speculated that Villano V traded places with his brother Villano IV during the match to beat Panther, but this theory was never proven ... In several cases, when a Luchador loses his mask, his career ends, but Panther seemed to gain new life after the loss ... Entered into an incredible streak of victories, and won a few regional tournaments ... Joined Ultimo Guerrero's Laguneros stable and continued his rivalry against Villano V and the Dynasty faction ... Started a feud with Averno, challenging him for the middleweight title ... Makes his opponents submit to La Palanca Lagunera.

98 TYSON DUX (5'10", 200, 7, 323)

This indy veteran has appeared in promotions throughout North America, in addition to competing in the 2005 ECWA Super 8 Tournament and wrestling in many WWE dark matches ... Realized a longtime dream by debuting with Pro Wrestling Zero1 in Japan in late-2008 ... Enjoys a good relationship with TNA, although he is not on the full-time roster ... He and his Team International teammates came up short in TNA's World X Cup last year ... Dux and Pierre Shadows lost to Christian Cage and Brian Youngblood at a BSE Pro show, where Dux shocked the crowd by smashing Cage with a ringside bell ... Lost to Cage in the obligatory grudge match ... Also competes in Border City Wrestling ... Uses the brainbuster and a single-leg Boston crab variation ... Nicknamed "Textbook" ... Has

100 TAKESHI MORISHIMA (6'3", 320, 11, 11)

The monstrous powerhouse of Pro Wrestling NOAH remains a threat but has seen his standing in the promotion fall recently ... His first GHC heavyweight championship reign ended last September at the hands of the newly arrived Kensuke Sasaki ... Had a WWE tryout last year, wrestling Charlie Haas and Jamie Noble in dark matches, but wasn't signed ... A chance to regain the GHC belt went down the drain in December when he lost a number-one contender match to Jun Akiyama ... What started as an amazing year ended in another defeat at ROH's Final Battle 2008 when he fell to Bryan Danielson ... An appearance in New Japan and a spot in the 2009 Global Tag League final with Kensuke Sasaki were the highlights of an otherwise to date uneventful 2009.

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Photo by Lee South/TNA Wrestling

101 UMAGA (6'4", 348, 10, 37) The Samoan is gone from WWE, but his achievements warrant a solid ranking this year ... Nevertheless, Umaga's recent fortunes represent a stunning downturn in his once-promising career ... Sent from Raw to Smackdown in last year's talent draft ... Tore his PCL after brief rivalries with Ken Kennedy and The Big Show ... Resumed his winning ways upon his return to the blue brand in January ... His Samoan spike was as feared as ever ... Lost to C.M. Punk in a Samoan strap match at Extreme Rules ... Released from WWE on June 8 because of his second Wellness Policy violation and his refusal to go into rehabilitation.

102 PETEY WILLIAMS (5'7", 179, 10, 48) Recently returned to Ring of Honor after being released from TNA in February ... Competed in a Six-Man Mayhem match also involving ROH champion Austin Aries, Rasche Brown, Sami Callihan, Delirious, and Joey Ryan on June 27 ... Aries won with his title intact ... Suffered a humiliating year in TNA, first at the hands of mentor Scott Steiner and ending when he was pinned in a tag team match pitting himself and Eric Young against TNA World tag team champions Beer Money Inc. ... The pre-match stipulation read that the person pinned would be forced to leave TNA ... Master of the awesome Canadian Destroyer flip piledriver ... Primed for a high-profile indy run.

103 TIGER MASK IV (5'8", 192, 14, 207) The instantly recognizable fourth generation of Tiger Mask has returned to prominence in 2009 ... Began the year on a high note at New Japan's January Tokyo Dome show by beating Low Ki to recapture the IWGP junior heavyweight championship ... The returning Black Tiger IV served as a menace for Tiger Mask before losing a title-vs.-mask match and revealing himself as Rocky Romero ... No sooner had he shaken hands with Romero than another Black Tiger appeared, marking the arrival of the fifth generation of the anti-Tiger Mask villain ... Successfully defended his title against the new Black Tiger V in May and remains champion.

104 TOMMY DREAMER (6'2", 265, 20, 114) Scored the feel-good victory of the year when he won the ECW title in a three-way match

also involving Jack Swagger and defending champ Christian at Extreme Rules ... Had vowed to retire if he hadn't regained the ECW title by the end of his contract ... GM Tiffany extended the contract by one day to allow him to compete at the pay-per-view ... Successfully defended the belt against Christian, Jack Swagger, Finlay, and Mark Henry in a scramble match at The Bash ... His DDT is more dangerous than a chair shot ... May be crafting the end of his in-ring career to work behind the scenes for WWE.

105 KEVIN NASH (7', 317, 18, 186) Torn between his loyalty to the Main Event Mafia and his friendship with Sting ... Kurt Angle forced him to choose sides, and he chose the MEM ... Still a respected crowd favorite despite his choice of friends ... Managed to beat former protégé Samoa Joe at Turning Point ... A staph infection forced him to miss their rematch at Genesis ... Seconded by the lovely Jenna Morasca ... Abandoned Scott Hall during a recent tag match against The New Age Outlaws at a Great Lakes Championship Wrestling show ... Still possesses a wicked power bomb ... Must be the youngest 50-year-old competing in the squared circle today.

106 RHETT TITUS (6'2", 217, 4, 311) Gained a higher-profile on the East Coast indy scene but remains firmly in Ring of Honor's mid-card pack ... Scored wins over ROH up-and-comers Ernie Osiris and Mitch Franklin ... Routinely loses to more experienced foes, such as Delirious and Davey Richards ... Also prominent in Maryland Championship Wrestling ... Began making appearances in Full-Impact Pro in late-2008 ... Defeated Chris Jones in March 2009 to become FIP Heritage champion ... Nickname is "Addicted To Love" ... Uses basic moves such as the frog splash and clothesline with high-impact ferocity ... His career is likely to move steadily upward in 2009-10.

107 MARK BRISCOE (6', 202, 9, 50) Drops further behind his older brother this year because he missed a few months as a result of a heinous attack by Jimmy Jacobs ... The Age of the Fall member repeatedly jabbed Briscoe's wrist with a rail spike ... Rejoined brother Jay and Austin Aries to defeat the Age of the Fall last July ... He and Jay scored big wins over The Irish Airborne, The American Wolves, and the Latin American Xchange ... Possesses a shooting star press that rivals Evan Bourne's ... His many scars and missing teeth prove he has paid his dues ... He and his brother are just as popular in Japan as they are in Ring of Honor and other American indies.

108 NEGRO CASAS (5'7", 170, 30, 112) The oldest son of Pepe Casas continues to be a high-impact player in Lucha Libre ... Made brief alliances with Ultimo Guerrero and his stable ... Won the CMLL trios championship with Atlantis and Ultimo Guerrero, but lost it a few months later to Hector Garza, La Mascara, and Hijo del Fantasma ... Joined Mr. Niebla and his Peste Negra stable ... Brought his brothers Heavy Metal and Felino into the stable ... Revived his rivalry with former partner Mistico, and started using Mistico's finisher in some matches to heat up the feud ... Defeated Mistico for the CMLL welterweight title ... Successfully defended his new title against Mistico in a rematch ... Ends his matches with his father's move, La Casita.

109 LA PARKA (6'1", 220, 27, 249) The kids' favorite luchador has defeated nagging injuries ... Became a relevant player in Joaquin Roldan's battle against Konnan's Foreign Legion ... Formed multiple tag teams with the likes of Cibernetico, Mesias, and Charlie Manson ... Feuded with Konnan in late-2008 ... His most frequent tag team partner was Silver King, but he suddenly turned on him to join the Foreign Legion ... This would turn Parka into a more savage competitor and isolate him from everyone ... Heated feud with Silver King included several brawls and street fights ... His finisher is an elbowdrop neckbreaker.

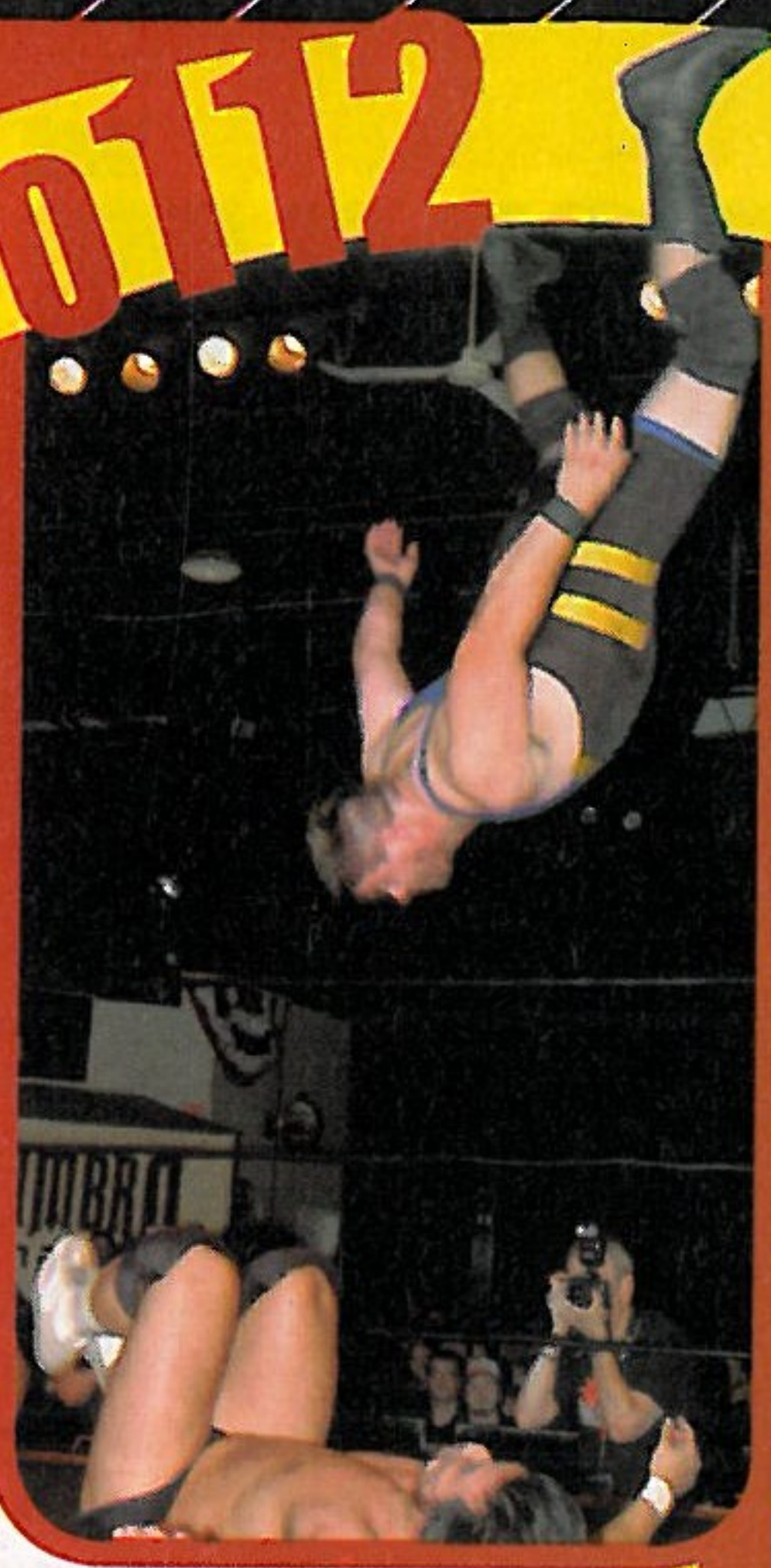
110 AVERNO (5'9", 170, 14, 68) The double-middleweight champion still reigns atop his division ... Helped Team Mexico win the TNA World X Cup ...

After the "Perros Del Mal" abandoned the company, Averno was left alone with Mephisto again ... Formed a faction called "Los Hijos Del Averno", by recruiting most of the former Perros members that remained in the company ... The new faction proved to be very dangerous and successful ... Continued his eternal rivalry with Mistico, and even had a few matches with him in Japan ... Successfully defended both CMLL and NWA middleweight titles ... Started a new feud with Blue Panther ... Uses a double underhook facebuster to win his matches.

111 MINORU SUZUKI (5'10", 225, 21, 48) The former shootfighter remains an avid freelancer though mainly bases himself in All Japan these days as a co-leader of Gurentai with friends Yoshihiro Takayama and Taiyo Kea ... Has held All Japan's tag team championship with Kea since June '08 ... A win over the famous team TenKoji (Hiroyoshi Tenzan & Satoshi Kojima), was one of their more memorable defenses ... Won the Champion Carnival tournament in All Japan this year, defeating Kaz Hayashi in the final ... Was unable to recapture the Triple Crown after winning the Carnival, falling to close friend Takayama at the end of May ... Has mastered the sleeper hold like few others.

112 KEVIN STEEN (5'10", 238, 10, 129) With El Generico, comprised one half of the most successful odd couple tag team in recent ROH history ... Made it to the finals of a 2008 tournament to fill the vacant ROH tag team championship, but lost to the Age of the Fall ... "Steenerico" finally beat the AOTF in September to capture the tag championship and defended it for seven months ... An accomplished singles wrestler, was forced to go it alone when partner went down to injury ... Came up short in a ROH championship opportunity against Nigel McGuinness in July 2008 ... Regularly competes in Pro Wrestling Guerrilla ... Quebec native has earned the moniker "Mr. Wrestling" for his innovative offense, including his Steenalizer package powerbomb.

Photo by Joe Zanolle



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➔ 113 DOLPH ZIGGLER (6', 221, 5, 189) After bouncing back and forth from the WWE developmental system and its main roster for five years, "Hollywood" native has entrenched himself in the Smackdown brand ... In case you forget his name, he's all too happy to introduce himself—again and again ... Challenged MVP for his U.S. championship in a high-profile match that gained publicity because of the ringside involvement of *The View* co-host Sherri Shepherd ... Lost the match and soon afterward targeted, of all people, The Great Khali as his next rival ... As a member of The Spirit Squad once held WWE tag team championship gold ... Sports one of the most impressive physiques in all of wrestling.

114 CIMA (5'8", 183, 12, 46) The longtime poster boy of Japan's popular Dragon Gate promotion fought neck injuries in the second half of 2008 after he had established himself as the immovable leader of the promotion ... Returned at the end of 2008 to form a dream team with the legendary Jushin "Thunder" Liger before disappearing again ... Emerged unexpectedly for a WWE dark match this February, leading to speculation he could leave Dragon Gate ... Squashed those rumors in March when he returned to his home, forming a new faction named Warriors-5 with Susumu Yokosuka and Gamma, then winning the Dragon Gate's Open the Brave Gate championship immediately after.

115 BISON SMITH (6'3", 280, 11, NL) Grizzled heavyweight brings size and international experience to ROH, which he joined in January of this year ... Was a frequent competitor in Puerto Rico's IWA and Japan's Pro Wrestling NOAH before he arrived at ROH, where he targeted Bryan Danielson ... Revealed to be following the orders of manager Prince Nana, who returned to ROH and reformed "The Embassy" with Smith, Ernie Osiris, and Jimmy Rave ... Along with Akitoshi Saito, has held NOAH's GHC heavyweight tag team championship since May of 2008 ... Played football as an offensive lineman for the University of Colorado ... Calls his belly-to-back inverted slam signature move The Bisontennial.

➔ 116 CHAVO GUERRERO JR. (5'9", 215, 16, 36) Former ECW, cruiser-

weight, and tag team champion in WWE had been relegated largely to running errands for his aunt, former-Raw GM Vickie Guerrero ... "Teamed" with John Cena to defeat The Big Show and The Miz at a June *Monday Night Raw*, pinning The Miz ... Beat then-U.S. champ Shelton Benjamin in a non-title match in February ... Association with Vickie Guerrero and brother-in-law Edge forced Chavo into some high-profile matches, including a casket match against The Undertaker and matches against Triple-H and Cena ... Did not fare well in those ... Got his career off to an early start, wrestling his late cousin Eddie during the intermissions of his grandfather Gory's shows in Mexico when he was a child.

117 NECRO BUTCHER (6'2", 250, 11, 163) Wild and wooly brawler has become one of ROH's most unlikely fan favorites ... Can lay claim to something that nobody else on this list can—stealing a scene in an Oscar-nominated film ... Playing himself, took Mickey Rourke's Randy "The Ram" character to his physical limit in a gruesome and memorable scene in *The Wrestler* ... Was a member of the Age of the Fall, until having a falling-out with Jimmy Jacobs and leaving the faction last summer ... Was immediately embraced by fans for his unorthodox wrestling style, which includes the liberal use of punches and, whenever possible, weapons ... Has been embroiled as of late in a feud with Jimmy Rave and Prince Nana's "Embassy" ... Is a former U.S. Army private.

118 THE GREAT KHALI (7'3", 420, 9, 83) After bullying his WWE competition for more than two years, the towering Punjabi has transformed into a gentle giant of sorts ... Challenged Triple-H for the WWE title at last year's SummerSlam, but went home empty-handed ... Rather than wrestling, has spent most of his time in the ring in recent months participating in the "Khali Kiss Cam" in which a female fan gets the opportunity to lock lips with the big man ... Even tried to smooch Santino Marella's "twin sister" Santana ... Has most recently had an issue with Dolph Ziggler, who has repeatedly antagonized Khali ... While hardly a ring technician, Khali has worked hard to improve in the ring, and against the right opponent is capable of an entirely watchable match.



Photo by Matt Roberts

Photo by Steve Beyer



113 TO 118

PWI 500



Photo by Steve Beyer

119 KAZ HAYASHI (5'8", 183, 17, 339)

The former WCW star and current leader of All Japan Pro-Wrestling's junior heavyweight division has finally backed up his spot with success this year ... Ended the dominant AJPW junior heavyweight championship reign of Pro Wrestling NOAH's Naomichi Marufuji in February to regain the belt in heroic fashion for his home company ... Has since gone on to win long and difficult title defenses against former New Japan star Minoru (Tanaka) and local heel Toshizo ... Finishes his big matches with a move called the Power Plant, named after the former WCW training facility where he spent time training while in America.

120 GO SHIOZAKI (6', 231, 5, 178)

One of Japan's most promising young heavyweights, Shiozaki has emerged as Pro Wrestling NOAH's greatest hope in difficult times for the company ... Returned from a lengthy excursion to America at the end of 2008 with a new look, style, and attitude ... Took NOAH by storm in 2009 with big singles victories over highly ranked wrestlers such as Takeshi Rikio and Bison Smith ... Earned his first shot at the GHC heavyweight championship in April, pushing champion Jun Akiyama close to half an hour before losing ... Bounced back in style in May, winning the 2009 Global Tag League with the late Mitsuharu Misawa.

121 CIBERNETICO (6', 240, 17, 32)

The self-proclaimed "God Of Lucha Libre" continues to be a strong crowd favorite ... Successfully defended his AAA heavyweight title against Zorro at TripleMania ... Started a feud with his former partner Chessman ... Continued defending his title while helping Joaquin Roldan battle Konnan's Foreign Legion ... Formed a short-lived tag team with La Parka ... Walked out of AAA and vacated the heavyweight title after Konnan took over ... Started competing on the independent circuit and began a short feud with Dr. Wagner Jr. ... Recently returned to AAA, where he is teaming with Mesias to battle the Foreign Legion. ... Uses a powerful chokeslam as his finishing move.

122 CHARLIE HAAS (6'2", 249, 13, 184)

Seton Hall amateur standout has plenty of skill, but has struggled in connecting with audiences dur-

ing his seven years in WWE ... Was at his most entertaining when he spent several months impersonating fellow wrestlers, including "Haas Hogan," "Bret 'The Hitman' Haas," and the Punjabi Giant "The Great Charlie" ... Under his different characters, picked up wins against Gene Snitsky and Montel Vontavious Porter ... In April, was drafted from Raw to Smackdown, where he has occasionally reformed The World's Greatest Tag Team with partner Shelton Benjamin ... Has looked considerably more serious and aggressive in the ring in recent months ... Says his late brother and tag team partner, Russ, is his "Guardian Angel" whenever he steps in the ring.

123 PAUL BURCHILL (6'4", 247, 7, 131)

"The Ripper" has had a less-than-stellar year in WWE, and could really use a change of fortune ... Briefly feuded with then-Intercontinental champion Kofi Kingston last summer, but was unsuccessful in his attempts to wrestle away the belt ... In December, was shifted from the Raw brand to ECW, where he has occasionally teamed with his younger sister Katie Lea ... Victory has been somewhat elusive on the Extreme brand for Burchill ... Lost a televised non-title match against ECW champ Christian in May ... Did pick up a couple of wins against Tommy Dreamer and The Boogeyman ... Once portrayed a pirate character that most fans, and Burchill, would likely prefer to forget ... Native Brit favors a reverse swinging neckbreaker as his signature move.

124 MARCO CORLEONE (6'6", 265, 10, 172)

The "Italian-American Eagle" has made a gigantic change in his career, shockingly jumping to AAA ... Teamed a short while with Dos Caras Jr. and Hector Garza ... Started a heated feud with Lizmark Jr., which culminated in a hair-vs.-hair match, where Corleone shaved the head of Lizmark ... Frequently teamed with the likes of Mistico, Shocker, and Blue Panther to battle several heel stables ... Cost Konnan a match with Vampiro in AAA ... Immediately joined Joaquin Roldan's battle against the Foreign Legion ... Teamed briefly with La Parka ... Feuded with the Hermandad Extrema as well ... Formed another team, this time with Latin Lover ... Uses a flying clothesline as his finisher.



Photo by Joe Zanolle

125 DREW MCINTYRE (6'5", 250, 8, 219)

Scotsman is the reigning heavyweight champion in WWE's developmental system, Florida Championship Wrestling, after defeating Eric Escobar in a match to decide the title, which was vacated by Joe Hennig ... Early in the grading period wore the FCW tag team championship with Stu Sanders in a duo called The Empire ... Wrestled on WWE television for a few months in late-2007 and early-2008 ... Recently returned to WWE in some non-televvised matches, defeating Jimmy Wang Yang ... Has extensive experience in promotions throughout Europe, where he began competing as a teenager ... Calls his side leg trip takedown finisher the Scot Drop ... Is comfortable wrestling his matches in a kilt.

126 JAMIE NOBLE (5'9", 202, 15, 125)

Veteran cruiserweight has the mouth and backbone of a wrestler twice his size ... Soon after being drafted from Smackdown to Raw in 2008, sought to impress some of WWE's Divas by picking fights with considerably larger wrestlers ... Doesn't discourage easily, even after losing to opponents like Kane, Mike Knox, and Batista in less than 30 seconds ... Picked up televised wins against William Regal and Paul Burchill last September ... Scored a submission victory over Snitsky at a Madison Square Garden live event in August of 2008 ... Former WWE cruiserweight and ROH heavyweight champion moonlights as a producer for WWE, helping organize matches.

127 ERICK STEVENS (5'11", 248, 6, 136)

Powerhouse from the Sunshine State is a regular competitor in ROH and its Florida-based sister promotion FIP, where he holds the tag team championship with Roderick Strong ... Also wore FIP's heavyweight championship early in the grading period before losing it to Go Shiozaki in August of last year ... In ROH, has kept busy as of late in teaming with Strong and Brent Albright, including in matches against Kenny King and Rhett

119 TO 130

Titus ... Mohawk haircut and smash-mouth style may be inspired by The Road Warriors, whom Stevens credits with making him fall in love with the sport as a child ... Fans tend to chant "Choo! Choo!" when Stevens delivers a charging splash to a cornered opponent.

128 NARUKI DOI (5'8", 181, 9, 225)

Finally realized his potential and became the top dog of Japan's Dragon Gate promotion this year ... Captured the company's leading prize, the Open the Dream Gate championship, from rival Shingo Takagi in December ... Cemented his status as champion and ace of Dragon Gate with successful title defenses over New Japan star Koji Kanemoto and a man several times heavier than him, former sumo great Akebono ... His favorite finisher is the Bakatate Sliding Kick, a running baseball style dropkick to the face—it took five of them to keep the monstrous Akebono down.

129 RICKY ORTIZ (6'4", 256, 2, 382)

Debuted in ECW in July of last year during then-GM Teddy Long's New Superstar Initiative ... Originally used the name "Atlas Ortiz" in ECW—a variation of his former moniker of Atlas DaBone in OVW and FCW, but quickly switched to his given name ... Encouraged fans to cheer him on by waving rally towels, and even tried to market his own line of them ... Went on a six-month winning streak before losing an ECW championship number-one contender's match to Jack Swagger in December ... In April, was drafted to Smackdown, where he started to carry himself as an obnoxious motivational speaker ... "Latin Assassin" sports a hairstyle that makes Carlito's look like a crew cut.

130 DAVID HART SMITH (6'5", 260, 9, 197)

Only son of the late "British Bulldog" Davey Boy Smith is keeping his family's legacy alive as a member of ECW's Hart Dynasty, along with Tyson Kidd and cousin Natalya ... First arrived in WWE in late-2007, but had an unremarkable run ... Drafted from Raw to Smackdown in June of 2008, but never appeared on the brand ... Instead honed his skills further in FCW ... Won the FCW tag team championship with Kidd (then known as T.J. Wilson) and held the title for about six weeks ... Was drafted to ECW in April, and made his debut attacking Finlay after a match between the Irishman and Kidd ... Sports a tougher look and more aggressive style than during any time in his nine-year career.

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➔ 131 DELIRIOUS (5'11", 189, 8, 156) Masked wildman has had an eventful year in ROH ... Heartbroken after failing to earn the affections of Daizee Haze, tapped into his dark side and joined up with the Age of the Fall ... Ultimately left the AOTF when its leader, Jimmy Jacobs, attacked Haze ... Was involved in a lengthy feud with Rhett Titus, who stood in the way of Delirious' attempts to court Haze ... A frequent competitor in CHIKARA, where along with his partner Hallowicked, he held the Campeonatos de Parejas championship for 11 months until September of 2008 ... Also serves as the head trainer for the ROH Wrestling Academy, although it's tough to imagine how his students could understand him.

132 SUWAMA (6'2", 265, 5, 39) A formidable brute, Suwama remains All Japan Pro Wrestling's leading young star and a tough man to defeat ... After winning the Triple Crown from Kensuke Sasaki in April '08, he embarked on a series of successful defenses, pinning Osamu Nishimura and drawing with Taiyo Kea before dropping the historic belts to the legendary Great Muta in September ... 2009 has been a quieter year for the man who broke into the "PWI 500" top 50 last year, as he fell short of the Champion Carnival semi-finals and with tag partner Shuji Kondo, was unable to capture the AJPW tag team championship from Minoru Suzuki & Taiyo Kea.

133 JOE DOERING (6'5", 297, 5, 148) A former TNA Wrestling trainee at the Can-Am Wrestling School, Doering didn't last long in TNA but a trip to Japan helped him find his place in the wrestling world ... Has progressed quickly since debuting for All Japan Pro Wrestling in June '07, becoming a rare foreigner to earn a contract ... Quick progress led to a stint as AJPW tag team champion with Keiji Muto in 2008 ... In late-October last year, Doering betrayed All Japan Sekigun by joining the Voodoo Murders faction ... An emerging threat in All Japan and a challenge for the Triple Crown could be on the horizon.

134 DOUG WILLIAMS (6', 235, 16, 347) The most experienced and accomplished member of TNA's British Invasion heel faction, Williams has established himself as a top contender in the X division while also teaming with countryman Brutus Magnus ... Williams

brings a legitimate judo background to the table, having won a UK national championship in the 72 kg weight class in 1992 ... He possesses a wide repertoire of punishing, ground-based wrestling moves, which have led him to be nicknamed "The Human Torture Device." Williams has enjoyed considerable success in his native England, and impressed TNA officials with his performance during the federation's tour of the United Kingdom ... He has permission from TNA to appear for British promotions when his schedule permits.

135 MARTIN STONE (6', 240, 6, NL) Londoner is the reigning 1 Pro Wrestling heavyweight champion and one of the top grappling stars in the United Kingdom ... Defeated Eamon O'Neill for the Premier Promotions Worthing Trophy in August 2008 ... Also competes for the German WXW promotion where he held the tag team title with countryman Doug Williams ... Known as "The Enforcer" and "The Guv'nor," he is a two-time IPW: UK heavyweight champion ... Beats adversaries with his London Bridge spike DDT or a wicked Nigel McGuinness-inspired lariat.

136 PERRO AGUAYO JR. (5'6", 170, 14, 22) The son of legend Perro Aguayo has become more rebellious than ever ... Continued running his Perros del Mal stable in CMLL ... Feuded with Dr. Wagner Jr., and tried to recruit him into the stable ... Defeated Wagner in a match, where the doctor would be forced to join the stable, but Wagner refused ... Abandoned CMLL to create a his own promotion called "Los Perros del Mal" ... Brought the most relevant Perro members to the company ... Revived his feud with Dr. Wagner Jr. and battled him in several matches ... Battled Cibernetico in another intense feud, but later joined forces with him in several matches ... Uses his father's move La Lanza—a diving double-foot-stomp—as his finishing move.



Photo by Joe Zanolle

137 PAC (5'9", 172, 5, 200)

The 23-year-old British grappler has generated comparisons to illustrious countrymen Tommy "Dynamite Kid" Billington and Mark "Black Tiger" Rocco at the same stage of their careers ... Nicknamed "The Man That Gravity Forgot," PAC is a dazzling aerialist who can perform numerous variations of top rope splashes, including a senton variation in which he twists 630 degrees before landing ... PAC is best known for his work in the United Kingdom-based promotions Real Quality Wrestling, CSF Wrestling, Irish Whip Wrestling, and One Pro Wrestling ... He has also brought his high-flying style to Ring of Honor, Pro Wrestling Guerrilla, and Chikara in the United States, Dragon Gate in Japan, and Nu Wrestling Evolution in Italy.

138 FESTUS (6'8", 291, 4, 106) Like his mental faculties, Festus' rise through WWE's ranks remains slow ... Popular tag team with Jesse was split when Festus was drafted to Raw in April, leaving his little buddy behind on Smackdown ... Briefly feuded with then-WWE World tag team champions John Morrison and The Miz late in 2008 ... In May, teamed with Brian Kendrick in a pair of losing efforts on Raw ... With his tremendous size, brute strength, and surprising agility, has exhibited the makings of a solid heavyweight singles contender ... Pavlovian response to the sound of the ringside bell has provided for some complications and comedy in his matches ... Once took part in a peculiar singing contest with Jillian Hall on Raw.

139 HIROYOSHI TENZAN (6', 254, 18, 234) New Japan Pro-Wrestling's hard-headed Tenzan made news late last year by reforming one of Japan's most popular teams, TenKoji, with Satoshi Kojima ... TenKoji won both New Japan's G1 Tag League and All Japan's World's Strongest Tag League, becoming the first team in history to achieve that feat ... A scheduled IWGP tag team championship challenge in January at the Tokyo Dome was dashed when Tenzan succumbed to a series of injuries ... 2009 was a year of recovery for Tenzan until May, when he and Kojima reunited



Photo by Steve Beyer

ed but suffered an upset loss to Giant Bernard and Karl Anderson.

140 JOE E. LEGEND (6'4", 252, 17, NL)

Few wrestlers are as well traveled as this respected Toronto-based veteran ... Has, over the past year, competed in Germany, South Africa, Russia, and France, just to name a few ... Currently holds championships on three different continents ... Championships amassed in his career would take much of this page to list ... Frequently competes in German Stampede Wrestling ... When he's in his home country, Legend is a regular in BSE Pro Wrestling ... Had brief runs both in TNA in 2004 and WWE in 2000 as "Just Joe" ... Teamed with Edge early in his career in a duo called "Sex And Violence" ... Calls his twin sons, born last year, his "proudest match."

141 ROCKY ROMERO (5'7", 175, 12, 108)

Still just 27 years old despite possessing 12 years of professional experience in the ring ... The Cuban-American grappler has been enraging Mexican fans of AAA as a member of Sean Waltman's villainous DeGeneration Mex faction ... Jumped ship from CMLL while he still held the promotion's super lightweight championship ... While wrestling in Japan, he became the fourth incarnation of Black Tiger, feuding with the current Tiger Mask ... Romero lost a mask-vs.-title match to Tiger Mask at New Japan Pro Wrestling's Resolution '09 event, ending his stint as Black Tiger ... Has shown the versatility to overhaul his repertoire based on the character he's portraying in the ring.

➔ 142 EZEKIEL JACKSON (6'4", 305, 2, 403)

Imposing New Yorker moved quickly through WWE's developmental system before bringing his enormous physique and chilling gaze to Smackdown in July of last year ... Spent much of his first year in the company in the role of bodyguard for Brian Kendrick, and also sometimes teamed with him ... Scored WWE victories against Super Crazy, Jimmy Wang Yang, and Carlito ... Partnership with Kendrick was split when Kendrick was drafted to Raw and Jackson to ECW ... Soon after the move, returned to FCW for further training ... Former competitive bodybuilder is all power, and is reminiscent of former IWGP heavyweight champion Bob Sapp ... "Zeke" is originally from Guyana.

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143 ZORRO (5'9", 201, 16, 71) "The Prophet Of Lucha Libre" has undergone a major overhaul in his personality ... Has become a high-impact player in AAA ... Unsuccessfully Challenged Cibernetico for the AAA heavyweight championship ... Formed an effective tag team with Electroshock ... Tends to talk to himself ... Had a brief alliance with the Hart Foundation 2.0 ... Started a heated feud with Sean Waltman that included many gruesome matches ... Makes his opponents submit to the painful Zorro stretch.

144 MASATO TANAKA (5'11", 209, 16, 89) The former ECW champion spent most of 2008 as the unstoppable leader of Japan's ZERO1 promotion, fending off challengers for his ZERO1 heavyweight title in-house and from New Japan Pro-Wrestling ... Finally relinquished his grip on the title in October when New Japan's Yuji Nagata defeated him ... Fought Nagata at New Japan's January 4 Tokyo Dome show, the biggest on the Japanese calendar, but was unable to regain the title ... Pinned top rival Shinjiro Otani in April in an important singles match ... Remains a leading figure in ZERO1, but his appearances are limited by the promotion's reduced schedule.

145 ALEX KOSLOV (5'9", 190, 6, 269) The charismatic Russian has made a gigantic change in his career ... Continued in CMLL, competing in many matches, teaming with Mistico and Shocker ... Teamed successfully with Grey Shadow for a brief period ... Followed the footsteps of Rocky Romero, shockingly jumping to AAA ... Became part of Sean Waltman's D-Generation MEX stable with Romero ... The trio aided Joaquin Roldan in his battle with Konnan's Foreign Legion ... Also competed with other teams, usually helping the likes of La Parka and Elegido ... Became the first AAA cruiserweight champion by winning a tournament ... Closes his matches by using a springboard elbowdrop.

146 SHINGO TAKAGI (5'10", 209, 5, 283) The Dragon Gate powerhouse established himself as an integral figure in the promotion this past year ... Won the Open the Dream Gate championship for the first time last July in Kobe, Japan, pinning his rival BxB Hulk ... Successful defenses against Cyber Kong, Taka Michinoku,

Photo by Joe Zanolle



and Susumu Yokosuka made the former bodybuilder seem invincible for a while ... Lost the title to Naruki Doi in December ... After appearing directionless for a period of time, formed his first group, KAMIKAZE, recruiting Dragon Kid among others into his diverse faction ... Finishes matches with either the Last Falconry or an upgraded version called Made in Japan.

147 KONNAN (5'11", 240, 22, NL) The legendary Cuban wrestler has finally healed from many injuries ... After spending months managing the Foreign Legion, he finally made his in-ring return by attacking La Parka and Octagon ... Responsible for bringing American stars like Bobby Lashley, Bryan Danielson, and Rellik to help his stable fight AAA ... Started a very controversial storyline when he stole the ashes of Antonio Pena from the Roldan-Pena family ... Became the new general manager of AAA after defeating the AAA team inside a steel cage match ... Revived his feud with Vampiro ... Uses a devastating power bomb to defeat his opponents.

148 HECTOR GARZA (5'11", 210, 17, 123) "The Querubin Of Lucha" remains popular among the ladies ... Built a stable called Angeles del Aires, to which he recruited young high-flyers ... Formed a team with La Mascara and Hijo del Fantasma ... Won the CMLL Trios title, but immediately lost it to Ultimo Guerrero and his stable ... Regained the title a few months later with the same team ... Tried to reform his alliance with Mistico to recover the tag title, but the team was unsuccessful ... Continued competing in main event matches, usually teaming with Mistico, Shocker, and Dos Caras Jr. ... Had a short-lived feud with Dos Caras Jr. and Japanese stable No Limit ... His trademark move is a spectacular Tornillo.

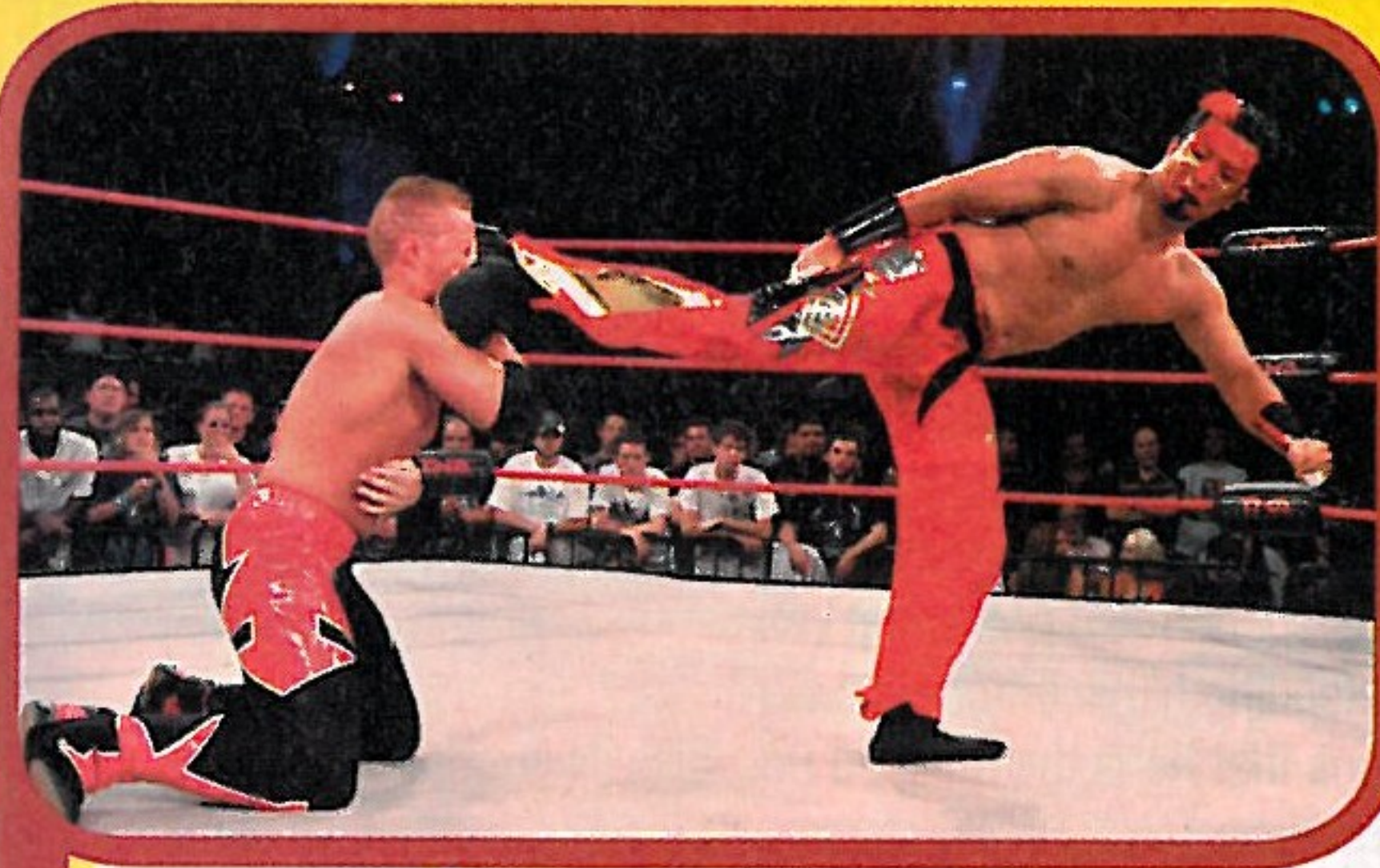


Photo by Lee South/TNA Wrestling

149 SONJAY DUTT (5'8", 185, 8, 81) Bombastic Bombay native ended a five-year stint in TNA earlier this year when he couldn't come to terms with the company on a new contract ... A longtime standout of TNA's X division, Dutt spent much of the past year entangled in a love triangle involving former pal Jay Lethal and So Cal Val ... The rivalry culminated in some peculiar concept matches, including a Ball and Chain Tuxedo Match and a Ladder of Love Match ... Since departing TNA, has seen action in PWG and ROH, where he dropped matches to Bryan Danielson and Chris Hero ... Compact competitor has a chiseled physique.

150 SIM SNUKA (6'1", 235, 9, 165) Second-generation star has been conspicuous by his absence in WWE for much of this year ... Former "Deuce" made his singles debut on Raw in September, minus the 1950s greaser gimmick ... Soon after announced that he would henceforth go by Sim Snuka—acknowledging his famous father, Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka ... Defeated Charlie Haas while Haas was impersonating Snuka's dad ... Pledged the Legacy fraternity, but was ultimately—and violently—denied membership by its leader, Randy Orton ... Used to call his running big boot finisher the Crack 'Em in Da Mouth ... A former tag team champion on the Smackdown brand with Domino.

151 KIYOSHI (6', 230, 10, NL) The enigmatic Japanese youngster has turned some heads in TNA with his unique style and resemblance to his former teacher, The Great Muta ... Appeared to be going nowhere fast as All Japan under-cards Akira Raijin until a trip to North America in 2007 ... Gained more confidence and returned to All Japan, but soon signed a

two-year deal with TNA ... Debuted for TNA last December, making an immediate impact by pinning Consequences Creed ... Has come close to winning the TNA X division championship on several occasions ... Recently aligned with New Japan's Team No Limit in TNA.

152 JETHRO HOLIDAY (6'4", 240, 12, 96) Former "Trevor Murdoch" surfaced in TNA last spring as "The Outlaw" Jethro Holiday ... Was released from WWE in July of 2008, weeks after his split with tag team partner Lance Cade ... Kept busy for much of the next year in IWA: Mid-South, where he took on and lost to Brent Albright in an NWA heavyweight championship match in August of last year ... Upon Cade's release from WWE in September, re-formed the team at independent shows, including for IWA: Mid-South ... Partnered with Eric Young to beat Team No Limit in the first round of the Team 3-D Open Invitational Tag Team Tournament ... Lost to Booker T in an "I Quit" match on a May episode of *Impact*.

153 AMAZING RED (5'6", 145, 10, NL) Pioneer of the X division made his return to TNA in April following a three-year-plus absence ... Crash-and-burn aerial style forced him to take a lengthy hiatus from wrestling and rehabilitate his knees ... Former X division champ teamed with current champ Suicide to defeat The Motor City Machine Guns and advance in the Team 3-D Open Invitational Tag Team Tournament ... Red and Suicide were eliminated by The British Invasion, thanks to the Machine Guns' interference ... Challenged Suicide for the X division championship but lost ... Defeated Kiyoshi in a dark match at Sacrifice ... Brooklyn native's arsenal tends to be of the jaw-dropping variety.

154 GIANT BERNARD (6'6", 331, 12, 53) Better known as "A-Train" to American fans, Giant Bernard remains the top foreign star for New Japan Pro-Wrestling ... Wrestled Kurt Angle at Sumo Hall in Tokyo Dome this February, but lost to the TNA star ... As a member of the new CHAOS faction, Bernard has stayed true to his monster heel image in Japan ... Has formed a tag team with the up-and-coming Karl Anderson, the team making an instant splash with big wins over reputable native teams Wild Child (Manabu Nakanishi and Takao Omori) and TenKoji (Hiroyoshi Tenzan and Satoshi Kojima), thus earning them a shot at IWGP tag team champions Team 3-D.

143 TO 154

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155 RAY GONZALEZ (6', 230, 19, NL) Nearing the 20th anniversary of his debut, Gonzalez remains arguably the most accomplished competitor in his native Puerto Rico ... He still uses his Fenix Landing cutter effectively, although every opponent knows to look for it ... Now finds himself being cheered by the fans after being betrayed by the members of his La Familia heel faction ... Won his ninth WWC Universal Championship, downing "Glamour Boy" Shane Sewell ... His five-month reign came to an end when he lost to Steve Corino in Naguabo, Puerto Rico ... Remains a top challenger for the title ... His "Ray-tings Cafe" talk show remains popular among WWC fans.

156 TYLER REKS (6'3", 247, 2, NL) Surf-loving Californian one half of FCW's tag team champions, along with Johnny Curtis ... Won the belts from Tyson Kidd and David Hart Smith in December ... Successfully defended championship against Ryback and Sheamus ... Dropped belts to Caylen Croft and Trent Beretta on April 30 ... Signed a WWE developmental contract in 2008 ... Cleanly pinned FCW Champion Drew McIntyre in a six-man tag team elimination match in May to win the belt ... Used to go by his real name, Gabe Tuft ... Muscular 30-year-old's signature moves are both named after his first passion—the "Big Kahuna" moonsault and the "High Tide" elbowdrop ... Refers to his dreadlocks as his "pride and joy" and says they are the mark of a true surfer.

157 AFA JR. (6'2", 290, 11, 368) Member of famed Anoi wrestling clan ... Hulking Samoan was briefly part of one of WWE's most powerful stables before being released earlier this year ... As "Manu," made his debut at last year's Unforgiven event, where he joined Randy Orton, Ted DiBiase Jr., and Cody Rhodes in attacking C.M. Punk backstage ... Was officially welcomed into the Legacy fold and regularly teamed with its other members ... Was forced by Orton to fight for his spot in the faction, and lost it by dropping a match to Matt Hardy ... Was wished well in his future endeavors by WWE in February ... Attitude and conditioning issues may have played a role in his release.

158 ORLANDO COLON (6', 200, 4, 75) Popular star of Puerto Rico's World Wrestling

Council is carrying on the rich tradition of his family, which includes his cousins, former-WWE Unified tag team champions Carlito and Primo ... Has spent much of the last year defending himself from accusations that he is the masked Pesadilla (Nightmare), who has ambushed many WWC stars ... The accusations have come primarily from his arch-rival, Ray Gonzalez, but even his legendary uncle, Carlos Colon, has confronted him about the allegations ... Spent some time on the sidelines after suffering a shoulder injury at the hands of Bronco #1 ... Challenged ZERO1 champion Shinjiro Otani for his championship in Japan, but lost ... Lanky Latino has all the charisma of his famous relatives, and perhaps even more spirit.

159 JOHNNY CURTIS (6'1", 218, 4, 372) Beantown native co-held the FCW tag team championship with partner Tyler Reks since December before losing them in late-April ... Retained the championship in numerous televised title defenses, including against Trent Beretta and Caylen Croft and against The Secret Service—Derrick Bateman and Tonga ... Beat Drew McIntyre by disqualification in January after being attacked by Ryback ... Was shelved with a concussion for several weeks earlier this year ... Has wrestled a few non-televvised matches for WWE, which employs him as a developmental talent ... They included wins against Matt Striker and Armando Estrada ... Before joining FCW, wrestled for a number of independent promotions in New England ... Was trained in part by Bill "Hugh Morriss" DeMott.

160 VOLADOR JR. (5'9", 190, 9, 191) The high-flyer is slowly building a successful career with his achievements ... Joined Hector Garza's Angeles del Aire stable ... Competed in the TNA World X Cup, as apart of Team Mexico ... Won the Ultimate X match that gave his team the title ... Continued making a few appearance in TNA ... Won the CMLL tag title with Sombra by defeating Averno and Mephisto in a heated match ... Remained in main event matches, defending the tag title ... Made brief alliance with Mistico ... Revived his feud with Averno and his stable over the tag title ... Closes most of his matches with a dangerous moonsault.

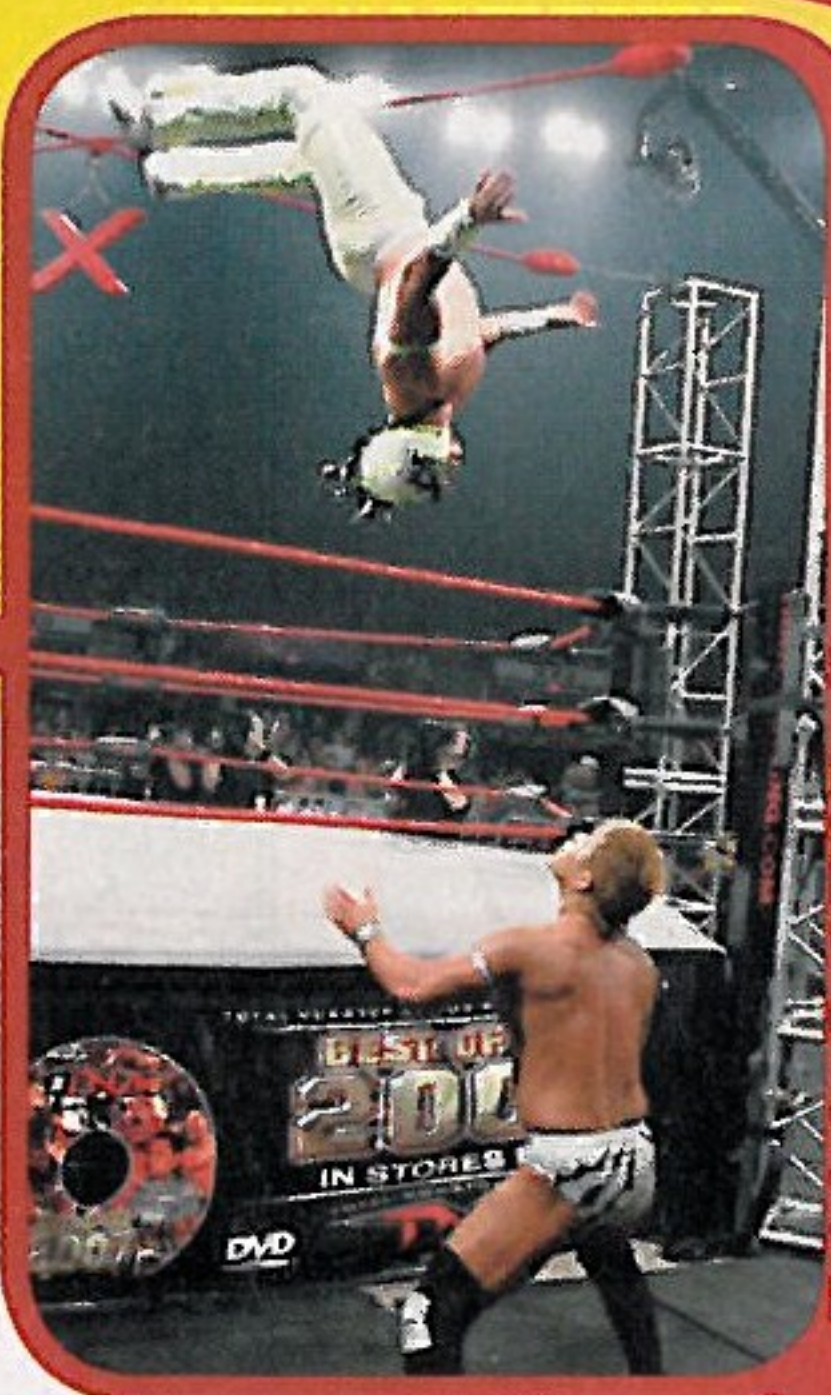


Photo by Lee South/TNA Wrestling



Photo by Lee South/TNA Wrestling

161 TETSUYA NAITO (5'11", 209, 3, NL) One half of New Japan Pro Wrestling's No Limit tag team, Tetsuya Naito has emerged as one of the most talented "Young Lion" graduates of New Japan's storied dojo ... Speedy and athletic, Naito captured the IWGP junior tag team championship with Yujiro last October, but the reign was cut short by TNA's Motor City Machine Guns at the Tokyo Dome on January 4 this year ... The two ran after the Guns to America, becoming regular talents in TNA in their quest for experience and gold ... Finishes important matches with a spectacular Stardust Press (corkscrew 450 splash).

162 PAUL LONDON (5'10", 205, 9, 116) Former WWE tag team and cruiserweight champion now likes to call himself "The Intrepid Traveler" ... Was released in November, where he last competed in the singles ranks on the Raw brand ... Didn't have much success in that role, losing to Chris Jericho, Lance Cade, and others ... Has most recently seen action in PWG, where he teamed with The Young Bucks to defeat Joey Ryan, Scott Lost, and Karl Anderson ... Made wrestling headlines this year not for what he did in the ring, but for lashing out at several ex-WWE colleagues in an interview with False Count Radio ... Although flaky at times, a tremendously well-rounded talent.

163 EL GENERICO (5'11, 185, 7, 143) Calls himself the "Generic Luchador," but to ROH fans, the masked man is as unique as they come ... Can usually be found teaming with Kevin Steen, with whom he held the ROH tag team championship for seven months during the grading period ... Has also seen considerable singles success in ROH, scoring upset wins against the likes of Bryan Danielson and Tyler Black ... On two occasions

took Nigel McGuinness to his limit in ROH heavyweight championship matches, but could not win the big one ... Knee injury forced him to miss some time in the ring this year ... Also a frequent competitor in PWG, where he is a former heavyweight and tag team champion.

164 IDOL STEVENS (6'4", 237, 7, NL) The "Superstar" has been plying his trade in the World Wrestling Council, where he wears the Puerto Rico heavyweight championship he won from "The Phenomenal" BJ ... Joined WWC earlier this year as part of "La Familia Americana" along with WWC Universal heavyweight champion Steve Corino ... In November of last year made his return to OVW, where he wore the heavyweight title in 2007, and quickly won the championship again from Anthony Bravado ... Held the title for less than two months ... Was once briefly part of WWE's Smackdown roster in a tag team with K.C. James and managed by Michelle McCool ... Has since cut his hair, sharpened his look, and improved his in-ring abilities.

165 JESSE (5'10", 210, 9, 147) May be considerably smarter than his ex-partner Festus, but it's Jesse's career that has suffered more since the duo was forced to split up when Festus was drafted to Raw in April ... Before splitting, Southern bred tag team had a decent run, even feuding with John Morrison and The Miz late last year ... Helped Smackdown "move" networks last fall by donning a moving company uniform, wrapping up opponents in tape, and hauling them away ... Has hardly been seen since being left to go at it alone on the Smackdown brand ... WWE doesn't mention it, but Jesse is a second-generation wrestler and son of the late "Fabulous Freebird" Terry Gordy.

166 YUJIRO (5'10", 218, 5, NL) A former amateur wrestling star in his university days, Yujiro is the more experienced half of New Japan's No Limit tag team, which he forms with Tetsuya Naito ... Scored the pin when he and Naito won the IWGP junior tag team championship last year, dropping Minoru with his favored Intercollegiate Slam ... Currently in North America with Naito, the two having recently spent time in TNA and now beginning a lengthy stay in Mexico's CMLL promotion as rudos ... Not lacking for physical power despite his lack of height, able to deadlift much heavier wrestlers.

154 TO 166

167 JACK EVANS (5'8", 165, 9, 145) The dancing high-flyer has become one of the most popular wrestlers in AAA ... Teamed with Teddy Hart as the Hart Foundation 2.0 ... Challenged several times for the AAA tag title, but failed to win the belts ... Aided the Foreign Legion in several key matches against Joaquin Roldan's roster ... Competed as a single in the Alas de Oro tournament, but lost the final match to Aerostar, which led to a heated feud between them ... Entered the cruiserweight tournament, where Teddy Hart and the Legion turned on him ... Joined Joaquin Roldan's team to battle Konnan and the Legion ... Finishes his opponents with the 630 senton.

➔ 168 CODY DEANER (5'10", 219, 9, 427) Mullet-sporting Alabama native makes David Spade's "Joe Dirt" look sophisticated by comparison ... Arrived in TNA after winning a contest at Destination X to spend "One Night With ODB" ... Not exactly a debutante herself, ODB took to Deaner, and has been "training" him to compete in TNA ... Has already wrestled a few matches for the company, biting off more than he could chew against Abyss, Awesome Kong, and in a ladder match against Doug Williams ... Has experience wrestling in several Ontario-area independent promotions ... Vows to one day become TNA World champion ... Once wrestled Kurt Angle on a 2004 episode of *Smackdown*.

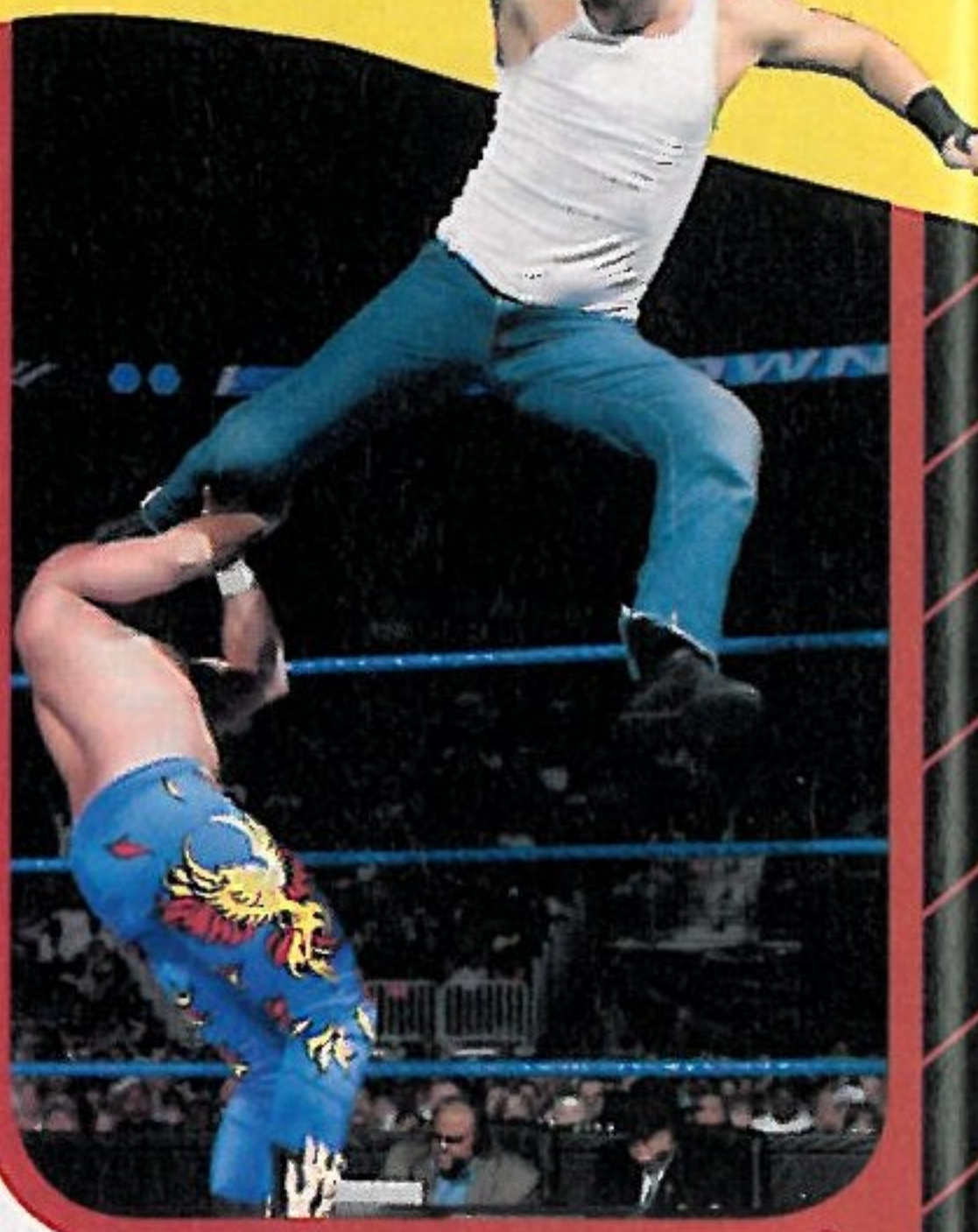
➔ 169 JIMMY WANG YANG (5'9", 206, 10, 144) Wrestling's first Asian-American redneck mostly dwells in the lower rungs of the WWE ladder on the Smackdown brand ... Wrestled on NBC's *Saturday Night's Main Event* in August of 2008 in a losing effort against The Great Khali ... Beat Brian Kendrick by disqualification on an October 2008 *Smackdown* ... Competed unsuccessfully in battle royals to qualify for a WWE championship scramble match at Unforgiven and for a spot in WrestleMania 25's Money in the Bank ladder match ... Defeated Pro Wrestling NOAH and ROH competitor Go Shiozaki in an un-televised WWE match last September ... Austell, Georgia, resident is a product of WCW's Power Plant training facility.

170 EL ELEGIDO (6'1", 210, 3, NL) The muscular 33-year-old native of Monterrey,

Mexico, is one of the top masked technicians in the AAA promotion ... Participated in the 13-man Pena Cup gauntlet match at the most recent Antonio Pena Memorial Show, where he pinned Pirata Morgan before losing to eventual winner El Mesias ... Got a relatively late start in the wrestling business, making his debut at age 31 ... His natural athletic ability and charisma have helped him to win over fans, but his lack of experience is still sometimes evident in the ring.

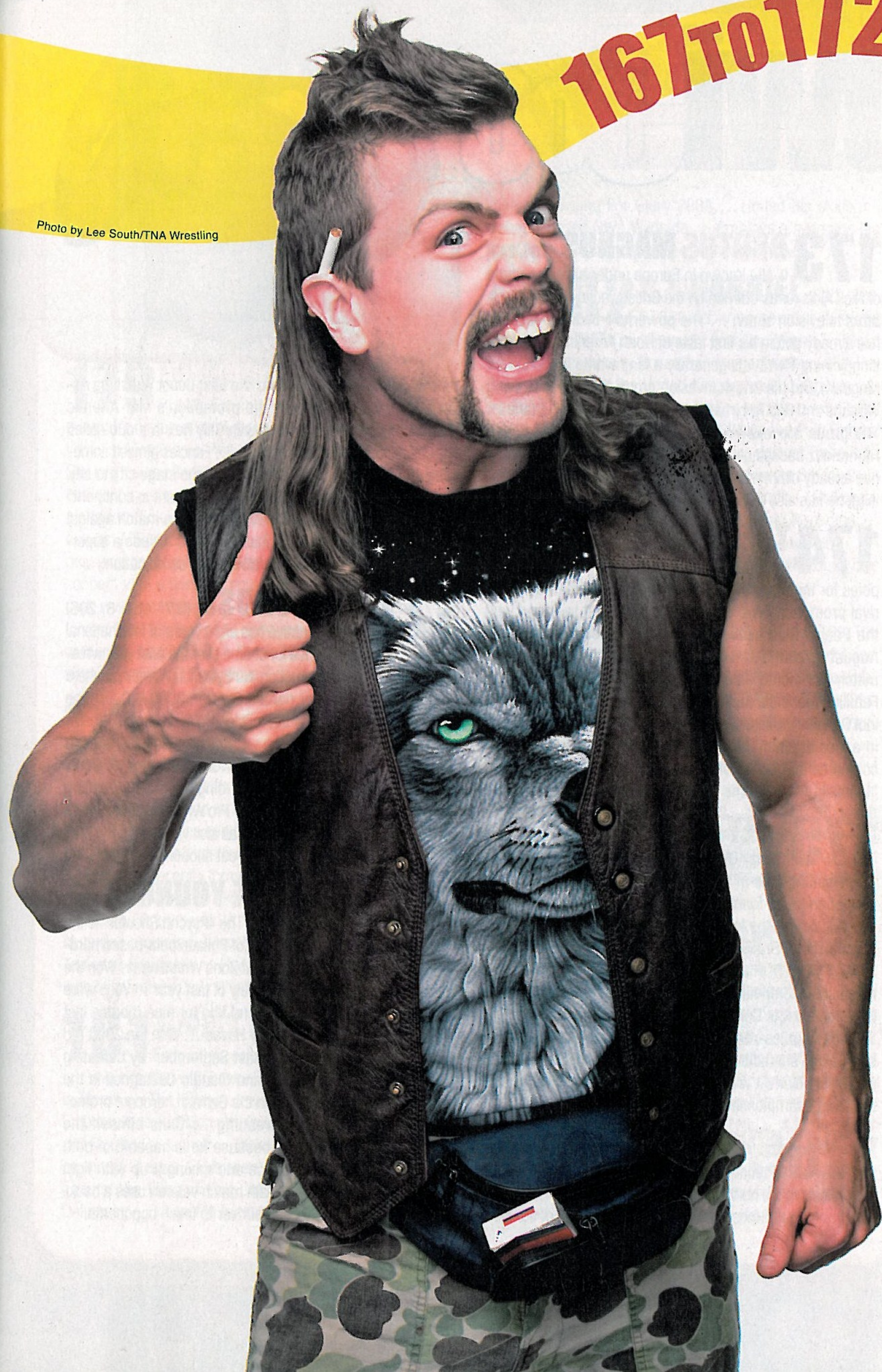
171 KENTA KOBASHI (6'1", 260, 21, 86) Pro Wrestling NOAH's legendary master of the Burning Lariat, Kobashi has suffered another injury-ravaged year ... After conquering cancer and slowly working his way back into wrestling last year, the much admired Kobashi was sidelined with serious injuries to both arms ... Underwent emergency surgery on his arms in September '08 and began a long recovery process, unable to return to action until March of this year ... Is still trying to regain the form that made him virtually unbeatable earlier this decade ... Battled another injury-hit star New Japan's Hiroyoshi Tenzan in a heated tag match this May.

172 JUVENTUD (5'9", 170, 17, 142) The rebellious luchador keeps creating controversy ... Continued with AAA and feuded with several former Mexican Powers members ... Competed with Crazy Boy and Ultimo Gladiator for a few more tag matches ... Abandoned the company to work on the independent circuit ... Joined the NWE in Europe and proclaimed himself the spokesman for the promotion in Mexico ... Also started working a few matches in the Perros del Mal promotion, where he feuded with Perro Aguayo Jr., Damian 666, and Super Crazy ... Returned to AAA with his girlfriend Lizzy Valentine to attack the Hart Foundation ... Competed in the Cruiserweight tournament ... Walked away again, citing assaults from Konnan and Jack Evans ... Finisher is the Juvi Driver.



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173 BRUTUS MAGNUS (6'3", 240, 9, NL) Known in Europe under his given name of Nick Aldis (or as Oblivion on the British version of the *Gladiators* television show) ... The powerfully built 22-year-old has already gotten his first taste of North American pro wrestling, joining TNA ... Is generally a fan favorite in the United Kingdom, but his British Invasion group that includes Doug Williams and Rob Terry has earned the enmity of TNA fans ... The group provoked a feud with LAX, brutally attacking Hernandez backstage at *Impact* ... His Tormentum finisher has already claimed numerous victims ... Away from wrestling, he has also taken on movie and stage acting roles.

174 TOMMY DIABLO (5'8", 200, 9, NL) Puerto Rican rulebreaker currently competes for the World Wrestling Council ... After wrestling for rival promotion, IWA, came to the WWC last year and won the Puerto Rico heavyweight championship from BJ on August 9, 2008 ... Lost the title back to BJ in a ladder match four months later ... A member of WWC's sinister La Familia Americana faction, which includes Steve Corino and Idol Stevens ... Teamed with Rico Suave and Johnny Styles in a loss against Thunder, Lightning, and Angel ... Once competed in a non-televised match for TNA as the masked "Diablo" ... A five-time IWA junior heavyweight champion.

175 JOEY RYAN (5'10", 215, 8, 183) "The Sleazy One" can these days be found offending wrestling fans in ROH and Pro Wrestling Guerrilla—a promotion he co-founded ... In an April PWG event, defeated Paul London, the former tag team partner of the man who trained Ryan, Brian Kendrick ... Slickly produced videos hyped Ryan's ROH debut for weeks ... In them, the thickly mustached competitor vowed to "rape" the promotion of its honor ... Lost to Colt Cabana in his debut weekend in ROH ... Los Angeles-resident claims to be a bona fide movie star, having shared the screen with the likes of Chevy Chase and Hillary Duff ... A past holder of PWG's heavyweight and tag team championships ... Has a vicious superkick.

176 ROB ECKOS (5'10", 195, 9, 204) The "Platinum Poppa" is one of the most sought-after talents in the northeastern independent scene ... Among his stomping grounds are Jersey All Pro Wrestling, the New

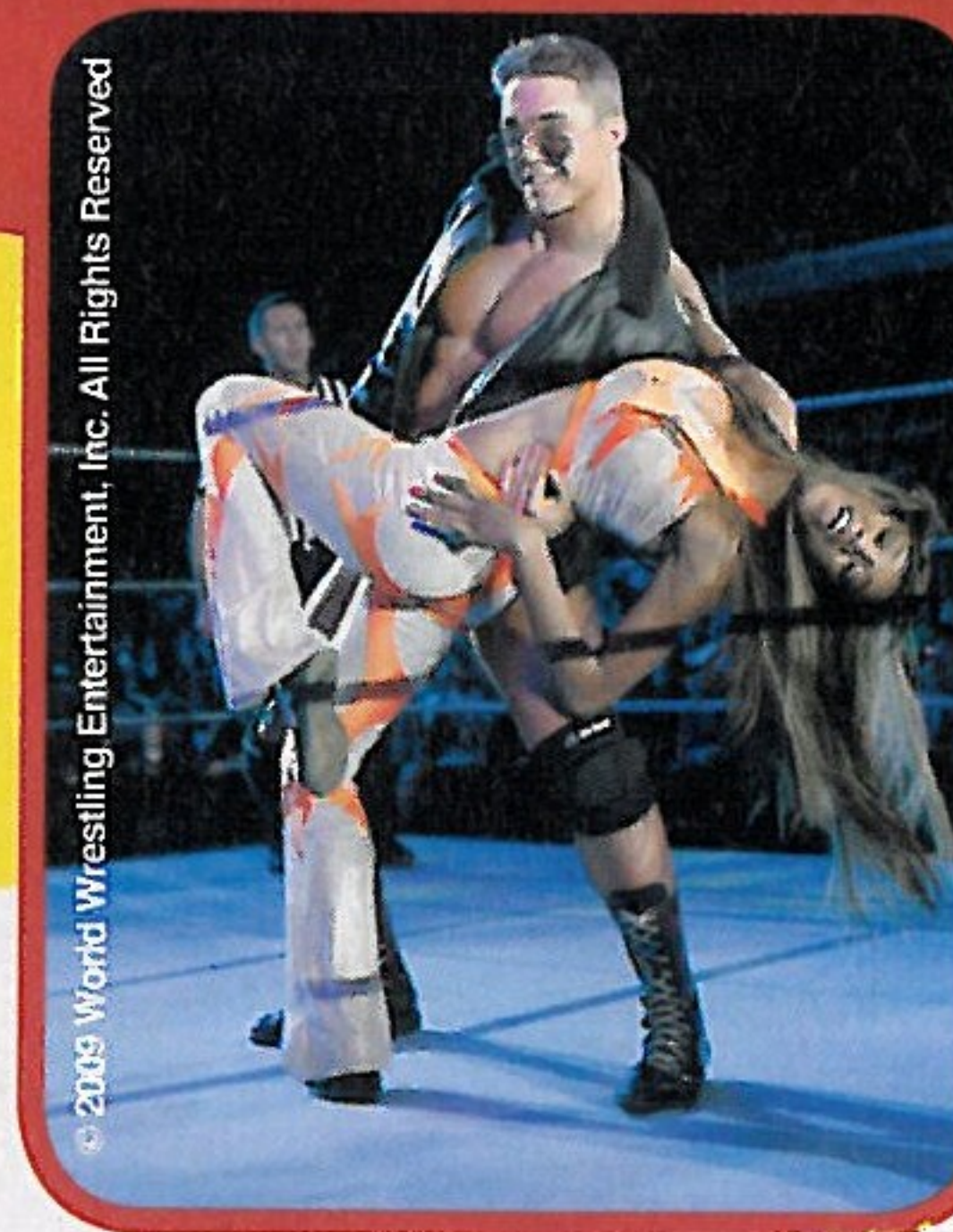


Photo by Lyle Williams

York Wrestling Connection, and the East Coast Wrestling Association, where he wears the promotion's Mid-Atlantic championship ... Has teamed with Billy Bax in a duo called The Valedictorians for several years ... Fancies himself something of a pop star, and claims to "rock the stage city to city, state to state, country to country, and continent to continent" ... Has some experience in WWE, including a match against Kofi Kingston last year ... Signature moves include a superkick and a Russian leg sweep/clothesline combination.

177 MATT CROSS (5'7" 181, 8, 208) Cleveland native has eight years of international experience ... Has spent a lot of time over the past year wrestling in the European promotion, Nu Evolution Wrestling, where he portrays a character named Spartan 3000 B.C. ... The character was inspired by the movie *300* and may be a testament to Cross' impressive abs ... Has also wrestled under a mask as Raptor for Pro Wrestling NOAH in Japan ... Competes stateside in promotions including American Wrestling Rampage and in his home state for Pro Wrestling Ohio, where he wore the heavyweight title ... Has also wrestled in the past for ROH ... "M-Dogg 20" has a great shooting star press.

178 DRAKE YOUNGER (5'9", 210, 6, NL) The "Psycho Shooter" is the reigning heavyweight champion of Philadelphia-based hardcore wrestling promotion Combat Zone Wrestling ... Won the title by defeating Nick Gage in July of last year ... Also wore the CZW ultraviolent underground title for nine months last year before dropping it to Danny Havoc ... Won the 2008 Ted Petty Invitational Tournament last September by defeating "New Horror" Sami Callihan and Claudio Castagnoli in the finals ... Has also competed in the German hardcore promotion, Westside Extreme Wrestling ... Calls himself the "Genuine Hybrid Wrestler" because he is capable of both technical wrestling excellence and mixing it up with light tubes and barbed wire ... Death match veteran uses a back-to-back double underhook piledriver to finish opponents.



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179 HUMAN TORNADO (6'4", 171, 6, 188) Exciting Texan recently returned from a lengthy hiatus after suffering a dislocated kneecap last year ... A regular in PWG, where he teamed with Scorpio Sky in a losing effort against Kenny Omega and Chuck Taylor earlier this year ... Character is right out of a 1970s blaxploitation flick ... Has seen action in ROH, CZW, and the defunct MTV promotion Wrestling Society X ... May be the only wrestler to ever simultaneously dunk a basketball and connect with a huracanrana on an opponent (see for yourself: www.youtube.com/watch?v=LmWZ27FDJb0) ... A former PWG tag team and heavyweight champion ... Had a cameo in the 2006 Jack Black film *Nacho Libre* playing a wrestler called "El Snowflake."

180 GOLDUST (6'5", 260, 20, 127) Fourteen years since the "Bizarre One" first made a splash, Goldust is still weirding-out fans in WWE, where he competes on the Raw brand ... Following a stint in TNA as Black Reign, returned to WWE last October in considerably better shape ... Was one of three options for fans to choose to take on Santino Marella at Cyber Sunday—was not picked ... Has most recently formed a bond with Hornswoggle, and has won a few tag team matches with him, including against Festus and Brian Kendrick ... Seems to still suffer from the stuttering problem he developed during his past battle with Tourette's syndrome ... Had a tense backstage confrontation with little brother Cody Rhodes in January.

181 JIMMY RAVE (5'11", 186, 9, 160) Following a run in TNA as one half of The Rock 'n' Rave Infection with Lance Rock, returned to Ring of Honor in March ... The "Crown Jewel" of Prince Nana's reformed Embassy faction, which also includes Bison Smith, Joey Ryan, and Claudio Castagnoli ... Claims to be from Atlanta, Georgia, by way of Ghana ... Has seen singles action recently in ROH against the likes of Colt Cabana, Bryan Danielson, and Delirious ... Competed in the Steel Asylum X division cage

match at Bound For Glory 2008 ... Honed his skills in Georgia-based NWA Wildside ... Employs a swinging leg hook fireman's carry slam as a signature move.

182 D.J. GABRIEL (6'2", 220, 5, 358) ECW competitor is eerily reminiscent of WCW cruiserweight pest Alex Wright ... Joined WWE's big leagues in November, allegedly after Alicia Fox discovered him in the United Kingdom while running her wedding planner business ... Picked up a few wins upon joining ECW, including against Bam Neely and Paul Burchill ... Has more recently dropped matches against Tyson Kidd and Dolph Ziggler ... Fox left his side to join the Smackdown roster as part of the 2008 supplemental draft ... Still occasionally competes in Florida Championship Wrestling ... Claims to have a passion for dance, fun, and winning ... A marginally better dancer than Alex Wright, but "Das Wunderkind's" leather jacket was cooler.

183 ATLANTIS (5'8", 180, 26, 109) The tireless veteran continues as a powerful heel ... As part of the Guerreros de la Atlantida stable, he competed in several main event matches ... Won the CMLL Trios title with Ultimo Guerrero and Negro Casas, but lost it later to Hector Garza, La Mascara, and Hijo del Fantasma ... Successfully defended his NWA light heavyweight title against Shocker and Alex Koslov, but later lost the title to Texano Jr. ... Started a feud with Blue Panther ... Battled Panther in a long match during his 25th anniversary show. Also worked a few independent shows, usually with Hijo del Solitario and Pirata Morgan ... Makes his opponents submit to the painful Atlantida Backbreaker.

184 DEVON STORM (6'1", 230, 17, NL) Veteran of the mat wars still occasionally competes in Northeastern independent promotions near his home in New Jersey ... Defeated Danny Doring in an NWA event in Roselle, New Jersey, in February ... Also works the occasional show for Jersey All Pro Wrestling and East Coast Pro Wrestling ... Gained most of his notoriety during his time in WCW, where he developed the maniacal "Crowbar" character and formed a tag team with David Flair ... A former WCW hardcore champion ... Made some wrestling headlines earlier this year by writing a lengthy open letter to Tazz in which he blasted the former WWE announcer, who made some negative comments about him on a WWE 24/7 program.

173 TO 184

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185 KIZARNY (6'2", 234, 9, NL) A childhood friend of both Edge and Christian, Kizarny was released by WWE after a short and forgettable stint ... Previously wrestled a non-descript stint in TNA as Sinn ... He has subsequently gone to Puerto Rico to wrestle for Carlos Colon's World Wrestling Council and is currently in negotiations for a Japanese tour ... Also participated in plans to co-headline the bizarre Jim Rose Circus vs. Jake "The Snake" Roberts tour, an event pitting circus sideshow acts competing with professional wrestlers ... Has an impressive repertoire in the ring, including his innovative Hell-Bow and a well-executed enzuigiri ... Away from the ring, the 33-year-old is a writer and artist of both comic books and horror fiction.

186 CHUCK TAYLOR (6'1", 200, 7, 309) "Raccoon City's Favorite Son" has established himself as one of the top competitors in CHIKARA and Pro Wrestling Guerilla ... Along with Gran Akuma and Icarus, Taylor was part of the victorious F.I.S.T. team at CHIKARA's 2009 King of Trios tournament, defeating Team Uppercut (Claudio Castagnoli, Bryan Danielson, and Dave Taylor) in the finals ... Previously, Taylor lost in controversial fashion to T.J. Perkins at the Battle of Los Angeles, but turned in an impressive performance ... His signature Awful Waffle combination suplex and piledriver is one of the sport's most difficult-to-perfect maneuvers ... Now 22, Taylor began his wrestling training at the age of 15.

187 BILLY BAX (5'10", 205, 10, 206) ECWA competitor makes up one half of The Valedictorians with longtime partner Rob Eckos ... Teamed with Eckos to defeat Aden Chambers and Chase Del Monte last November ... Lost a tag team match in January in which the ECWA Mid-Atlantic championship was on the line ... His partner, Eckos, won that match to capture the title ... A former ECWA tag team champion with Eckos ... Favorite move is a belly-to-belly suplex ... Hamburg, Pennsylvania, native was inducted in the ECWA Hall of Fame in 2006 ... Has also competed in Massachusetts-based Chaotic Wrestling ... Red-headed competitor warns fans, "Don't call me Opie!"

188 SHANNON MOORE (5'9", 175, 14, 159) Former cruiserweight competitor in WCW, TNA, and WWE keeps active on

the independent scene, including overseas ... In August of 2008 was released from WWE, where he had competed in a tag team with Jimmy Wang Yang that was dubbed "The Redneck & The Reject" ... Has traveled to Europe for World Stars of Wrestling, where he won the organization's inaugural heavyweight championship in a match against Joe E. Legend ... Has also competed in FCW Germany ... Took part in the 2008 Super 8 tournament held by the ECWA, losing to Alex Koslov ... Punk culture devotee owns a tattoo parlor in his hometown of Southern Pines, North Carolina, called Gas Chamber Ink.

189 RICK FULLER (6'5", 325, 19, NL) Middleboro, Massachusetts, native is still manhandling opponents after nearly two decades in the sport ... Wrestles in New England area independent promotions, including Lethal Pro Wrestling, where he currently wears the heavyweight championship ... Toured Japan for the first time last year to compete with New Japan Pro Wrestling, where he formed a successful super heavyweight tag team with Giant Bernard ... Wrestled for years in WCW, and lays claim to have competed on the very last episode *WCW Saturday Night* ... Gargantuan competitor's arsenal is loaded with power moves, including a devastating chokeslam ... Was trained by WWE Hall of Famers Jimmy Snuka and Tony Atlas.

190 CURT HAWKINS (6'1", 221, 5, 141) Member of WWE's Smackdown brand hasn't been seen much since Zack Ryder was drafted to ECW in April, splitting up their tag team ... Became one-half of the youngest WWE tag team champions in history when he and Ryder won a four-team match at last year's Great American Bash in front of a hometown crowd in Glen Cove, New York ... Lost the belts to Carlito and Primo Colon on September 26, 2008 ... With Ryder, took on the team of Triple-H and Jeff Hardy in a gauntlet match last December ... Was trained by former ECW champion Mikey Whipwreck at the New York Wrestling Connection Training Academy ... Formerly a lackey to nine-time world champ Edge.

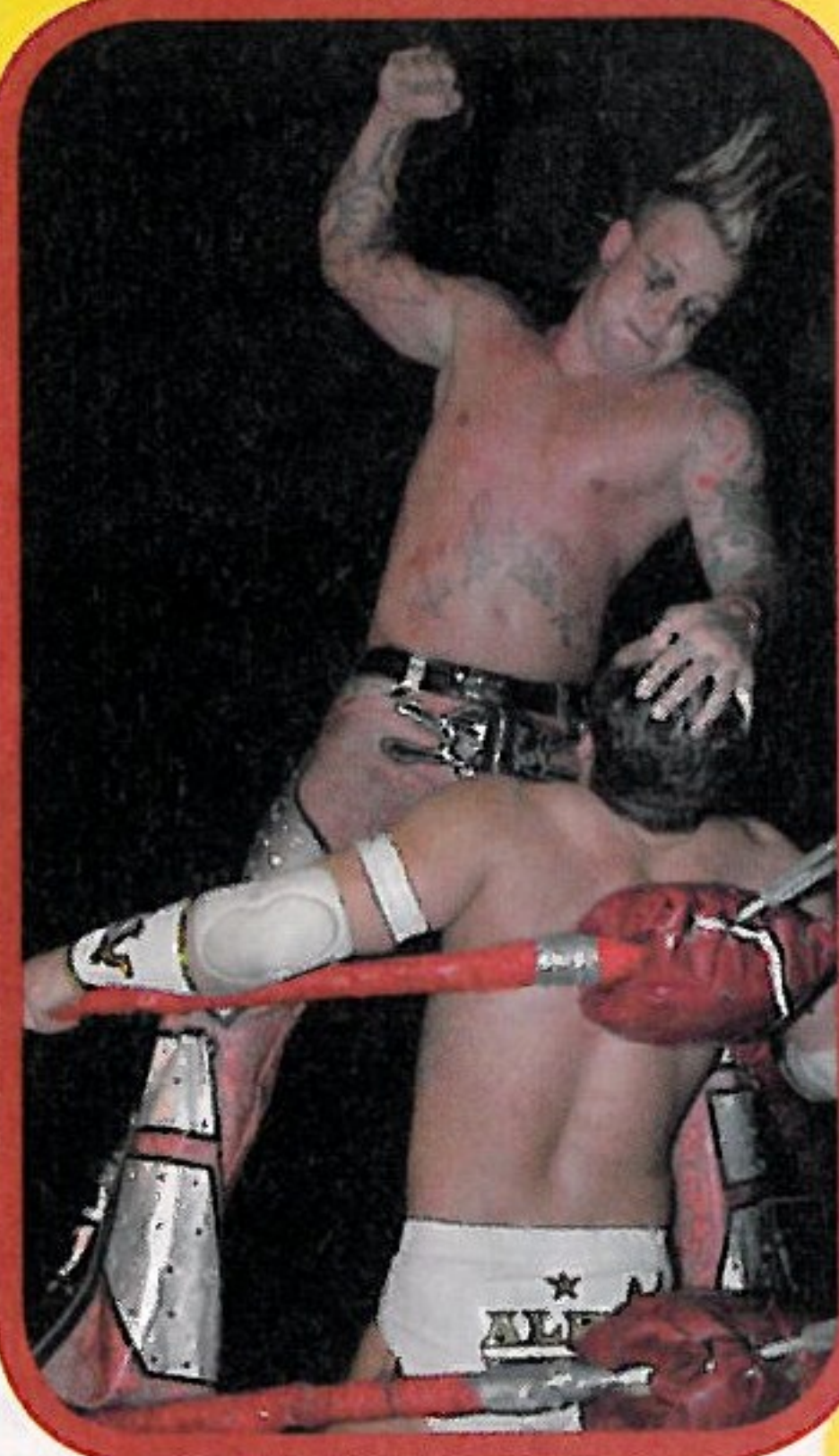
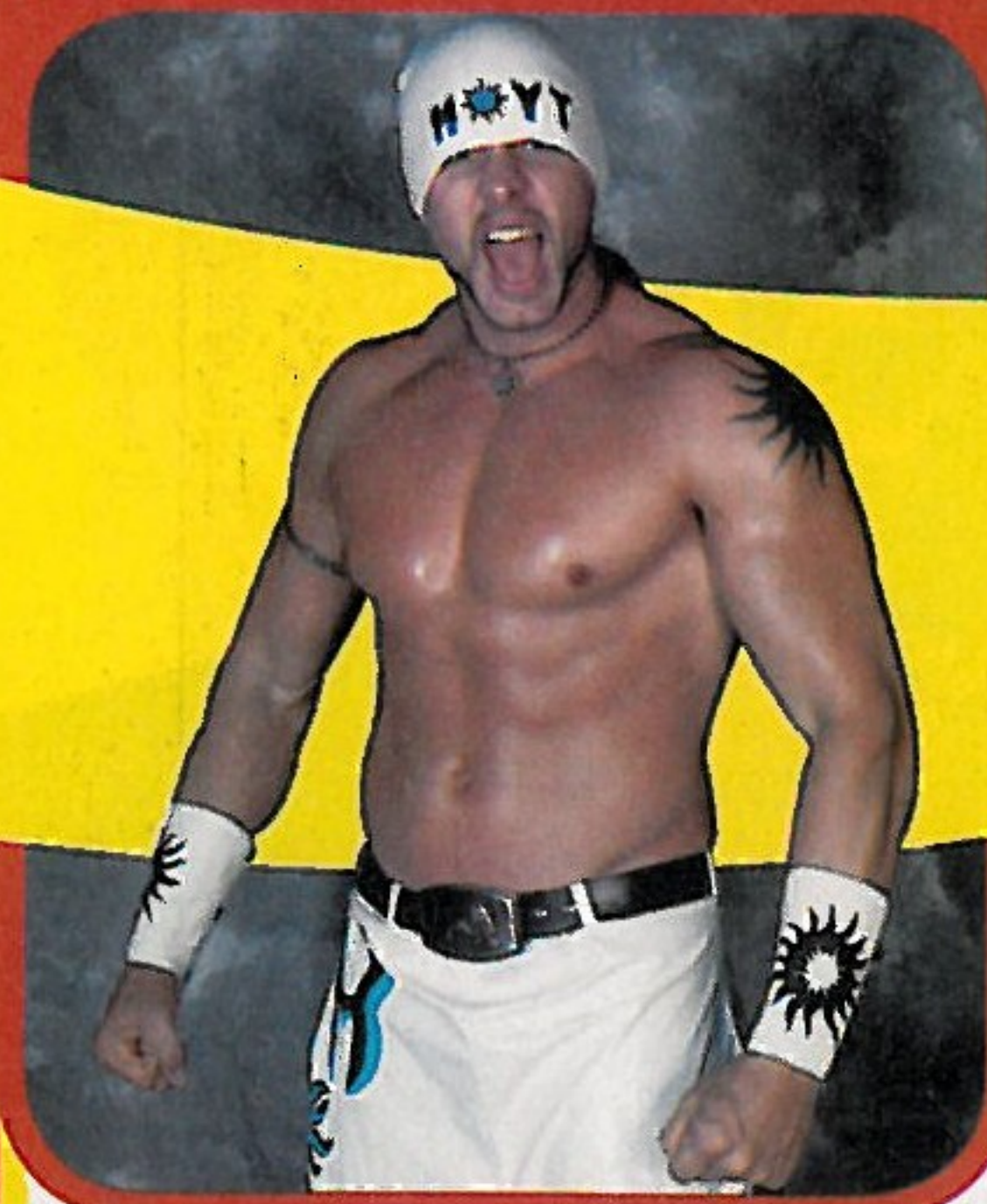


Photo by Joe Zanolle



191 LA SOMBRA (5'10", 175, 6, 192) The youngest wrestler in CMLL continues to achieve more success in short order ... Joined Hector Garza's Angeles del Aire stable ... Started a feud with Diamante Negro ... Formed a strong tag team with Volador Jr. and the team feuded with Averno and Mephisto ... Won the CMLL tag team title with Volador by defeating The Sicarios in a heated match ... Successfully defended his NWA welterweight title on several occasions before losing it to Ephesto ... Remained in main event matches, defending the tag title and making brief alliances with Mistico ... Pins his opponents with the innovative split-legged moonsault.

192 SEBASTIAN SLATER (6'2", 235, 4, 193) The former "Heath Miller" is a mainstay in WWE developmental territory Florida Championship Wrestling ... Has also gone by Heath Slater ... Held the FCW tag team championship with Joe Hennig for about six weeks, before dropping the belts to Tyson Kidd and David Hart Smith in October ... Has picked up singles wins in recent months against two WWE competitors—Kidd and Dolph Ziggler ... Came up short in an FCW heavyweight title match against champ Drew McIntyre in March ... With former partner Steve Lewington (D.J. Gabriel), once got a shot at the WWE tag team champions John Morrison and The Miz ... Jumping Russian leg sweep is his finisher.

193 HURRICANE HELMS (6', 215, 18, NL) Returned to WWE in December after an especially trying year both professionally and personally ... Was out of action for a year-and-a-half after undergoing surgery to repair two fractured vertebrae ... First appearance back on WWE after his hiatus was in pop-up video segments in which he would comment about matches ... Appeared a few pounds overweight upon his return, but nonetheless picked up victories against the likes of Shelton Benjamin and Montel Vontavious Porter ... In April was drafted to ECW, but has only appeared on the brand as a

backstage interviewer ... Sightings of a man in green performing brave acts backstage may hint at the return of wrestling superhero, The Hurricane.

194 SAMI CALLIHAN (5'8", 208, 3, 430) Frightening competitor calls himself "The New Horror" ... Defeated Brain Damage in February to win Combat Zone Wrestling's Ironman championship ... Soon renamed the title the New Horror championship ... Made it to the finals of the 2008 Ted Petty Invitational tournament ... Has wrestled on ROH's show on HDNet in matches against Erick Stevens and Kenny King ... Lost a match to decide the number-one contender to the CZW heavyweight championship to Trent Acid in June ... Has also competed in IWA: Mid-South and CHIKARA as well as for promotions in England, Germany, and Scotland ... Compact in size, but has an explosive offense that includes several devastating lariat variations.

195 LANCE ARCHER (6'7", 270, 9, 150) Towering Texan was known as Lance Hoyt before being dumped from TNA in February ... In TNA, teamed with Jimmy Rave as The Rock 'n' Rave Infection ... Even changed his name to Lance Rock for the sake of team chemistry ... Competed in the second annual Feast or Fired match for TNA ... Lost to Rhino in a December edition of *Impact* ... Left TNA after losing an Off the Wagon match against Beer Money Inc. ... Went to Japan, where he joined the Voodoo Murders stable ... Superstar looks and size made WWE take notice, and sign him to a developmental contract ... Lost to Justin Angel in FCW in May.

196 TRIK DAVIS (5'9", 160, 7, NL) Windy City resident is a frequent competitor in IWA: Mid-South, where he is a former heavyweight and tag team champion ... Tried to recapture the promotion's heavyweight title in a match against champion Dingo, but lost ... Has feuded with Egotistico Fantastico this year, wrestling him in a falls-count-anywhere match and an "I Quit" match ... Lost to Sara Del Rey in the first round of the 2008 Ted Petty Invitational tournament ... Beat Chris Hero in a falls-count-anywhere match last September ... Has made appearances in ROH and in CHIKARA ... Frequently teams with Prince Mustafa Ali ... Cruiserweight wrestler has technical and aerial skills, and is not above breaking the rules.

185 TO 1916

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197 **TEDDY HART** (6'1", 195, 14, 236)

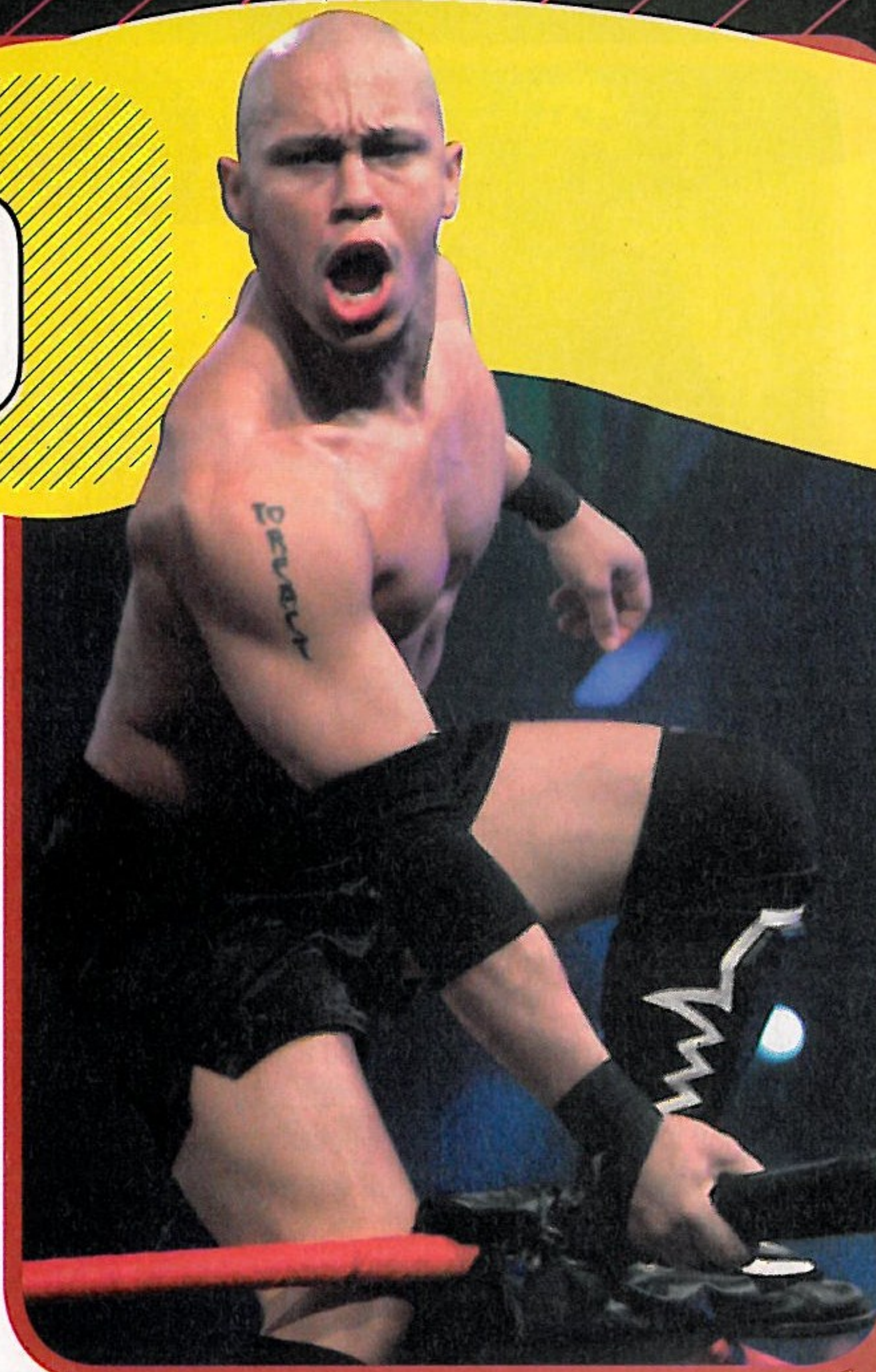
The mega-talented but highly controversial third-generation member of the world famous Hart family still has a way of wearing out his welcome in various independent, WWE developmental, and overseas territories ... Most recently, Hart departed Ring of Honor under a firestorm of complaints about uncooperative behavior and an overall bad attitude ... Over the past year-plus, however, Hart has settled into Mexico's AAA promotion ... At Rey de Reyes 2009, El Zorro and The Hart Foundation 2.0 (Hart and Jack Evans) defeated Charly Manson and D-Generation Mex (X-Pac and Alex Koslov) ... While many dislike Hart for his petulant behavior, he possesses one of the sport's most diverse array of mat-based and aerial moves.

➔ 198 **KAVAL** (5'8" 170, 11, 227)

Former Low Ki and Senshi landed a WWE developmental deal last year, and is using his new name in Florida Championship Wrestling ... Defeated Tyson Kidd and David Hart Smith in an FCW triple threat match in February ... Wrestled extensively last year for New Japan Pro-Wrestling, where he defeated Tiger Mask IV to win the IWGP junior heavyweight championship ... Lost it back to Tiger Mask IV in January ... A former two-time X division champion ... Was most recently nursing an injured knee ... Compact size, unique look, and innovative style—which utilizes martial arts techniques—has been thought to make him a good fit for a future rivalry with Rey Mysterio Jr. ... Brooklyn native turns 30 this year.

199 **ZACK RYDER** (6'1", 214, 5, 140)

Long Islander was drafted to ECW in April, splitting up his successful tag team with Curt Hawkins ... To distinguish himself from his look-alike ex-partner, took on a new appearance that included cutting his hair and wearing a purple headband ... Showed hints of being the showman of his former team in interview segments in which he would often break into catchphrases, including "Woo woo woo ... You know it!" ... We're not convinced that's going to catch on ... Wore the Smackdown brand's tag team championship for two months last summer ... May feel like a fish out of water without Hawkins, with whom he has teamed since both started their careers in the New York Wrestling Connection.



200 **SHAWN SPEARS** (6'3", 225, 7, 171)

Southern Ontario standout graduated from FCW to the main WWE roster, debuting as Gavin Spears in ECW ... Was released from WWE in January after wrestling just three televised matches, including losses to Finlay and Ricky Ortiz ... Established himself as one of the top prospects in the WWE developmental system with wins over Tyson Kidd and altercations with John Cena and the Hardy Boys ... Teamed with Dolph Ziggler to win the FCW tag title ... Competed in a tryout match for TNA in May, facing fellow former ECW competitor Elijah Burke ... Style is reminiscent of Lance Storm's.

201 **D-LO BROWN** (6'3", 278, 15, 220)

Ring veteran returned to WWE last summer after a five-year absence ... Got good reactions from crowds in tag team matches partnering with Kelly Kelly against Santino Marella and Beth Phoenix ... Was released from WWE in January ... Arrived in ROH, where he scored big victories against Colt Cabana and Jay Briscoe ... Lost an ROH heavyweight championship match against Nigel McGuinness in February ... Wrestled in CHIKARA's 2009 King of Trios tournament, substituting for Iceberg.

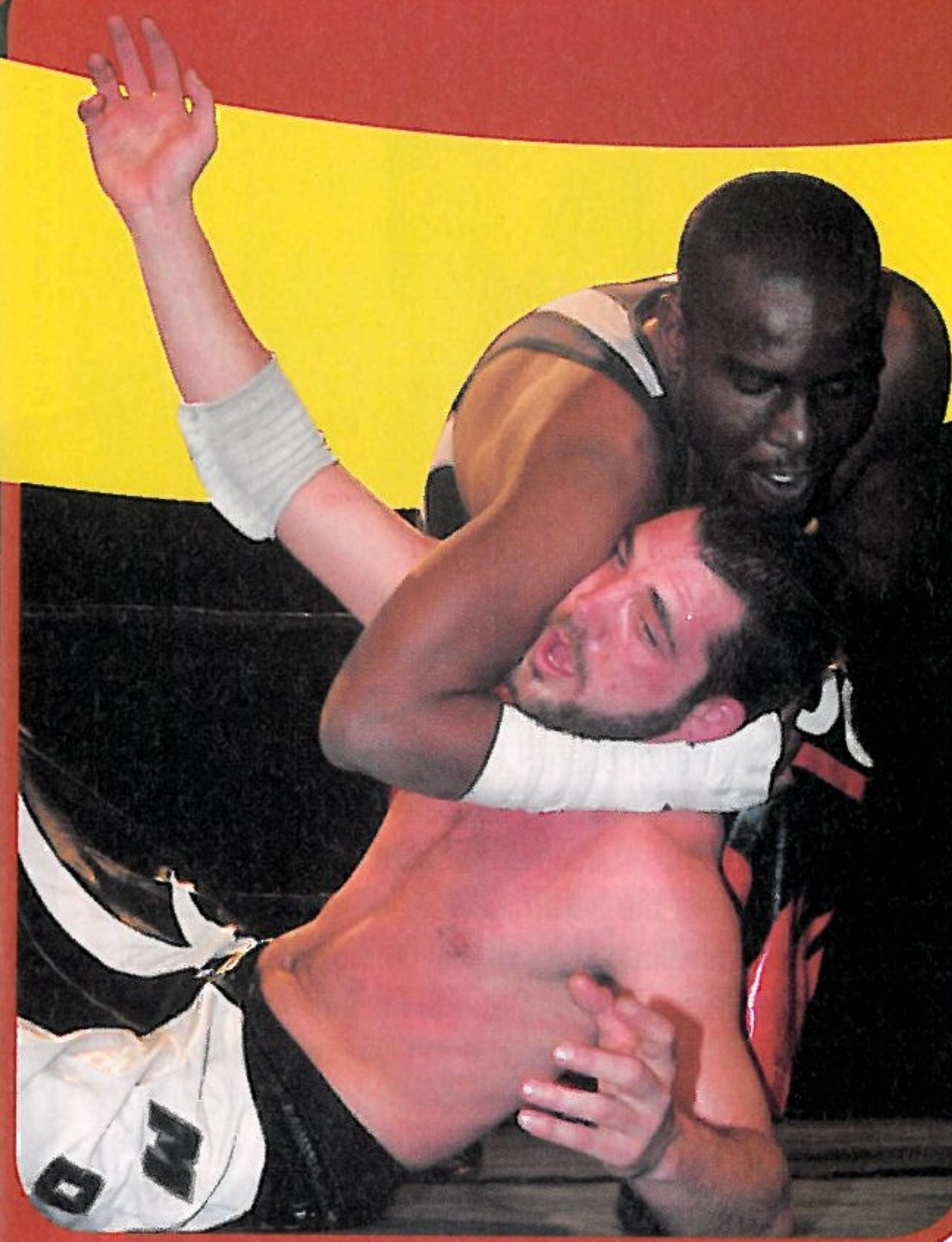


Photo by Lyle Williams

202 **KENNY KING** (6', 230, 7, 453)

Orlando native graduated to ROH after finding considerable success in its sister promotion, FIP ... Held the FIP tag team championship with partner Jason Blade for more than a year before losing the title last December ... In ROH, has formed an alliance with Rhett Titus and Austin Aries ... Defeated Sami Callihan on the first episode of ROH on HDNet ... Made it to the Season Two finals of WWE's defunct reality show *Tough Enough*.

⬆ 203 **RUCKUS** (5'8" 235, 10, 199)

Charter member of the independent wrestling stable The Blackout is the current Maryland Championship Wrestling heavyweight champion ... Won the title by defeating Christian York in a cage match in February ... Also a frequent competitor in CZW, where he has held the junior heavyweight, tag team, and heavyweight titles ... Had a decent run in ROH as part of the Vulture Squad with partner Jigsaw and managed by Julius Smokes ... Hasn't appeared there since October.

204 **SHINJIRO OTANI** (5'11", 236, 17, 218)

The boss of Japan's ZERO1 promotion, Otani continues juggling his responsibilities as a figure-head backstage with those of being a main-event star ... Ended the dominant ZERO1 heavyweight championship reign of New Japan Pro-Wrestling's Yuji Nagata in February

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... His glory was short-lived as just a month later he lost the title to Ryouji Sai ... Has downscaled ZERO1 this year, with the company running fewer shows.

205 **TOMKO** (6'6", 292, 7, 25)

Massive heavyweight saw action in both TNA and WWE over the past year, but is currently missing in action ... Was released from TNA, where he was last seen losing a match to Samoa Joe in September ... In October was signed to a developmental contract by WWE, where he first gained fame in 2004 as Christian's problem solver ... Wrestled a dark match for WWE, beating Paul Burchill in December despite being injured ... Was released from WWE in April.

206 **B-BOY** (5'10", 200, 10, NL)

Thirty-year-old San Diego native keeps active in IWA: Mid-South, Jersey All Pro Wrestling, and various other independent promotions ... Beat Sami Callihan in February on an IWA: Mid-South show ... Lost to JAPW New Jersey state champion Bandido Jr. in January ... Wrestled his "retirement match" in 2007, but it didn't take ... "The New Age Punisher" is a three-time Pro Wrestling Guerilla tag team champion with Homicide and with Super Dragon.

207 **ALAN STONE** (5'8", 194, 12, 77)

The dancing narcissist is still a favorite of the females ... Formed part of Joaquin Roldan's team to battle Konnan's Foreign Legion ... Fired by Konnan for dancing after his matches, but Commissioner Vampiro immediately rehired him ... Reformed the Bellos Stone team with his brother Chris Stone ... Feuded with the La Hermandad Extrema stable and challenged for the AAA tag title, but was unsuccessful ... Entered the cruiserweight tournament, but failed to get the title ... Typically uses a slingshot crossbody on his opponents.

208 **MR. MAC** (5'10" 239, 14, NL)

Fourteen-year ring veteran is well traveled, and has most recently competed in Puerto Rico's World Wrestling Council ... In WWC, has aligned himself with universal heavyweight champion Steve Corino ... Has sometimes performed in the capacity as referee, and a crooked one at that ... Lost to Chicky Starr in a singles match in May ... Charlotte, North Carolina, native has previously gone by the name Guillotine LeGrande ... Publishes his poems and short stories online under the title *Notes Of A Dirty Old Wrestler*.

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Photo by Shane M. Kidder/NWA

➔ 209 MIKE DiBIASE (6', 200, 3, 168) Oldest of the three wrestling DiBiase boys is the only one not under contract to WWE ... Largely competes under the NWA banner ... Held the NWA North American championship for 17 months before losing it to Apollo in Tyler, Texas, this past May ... Also won the NWA Texas heavyweight championship from Chaz Taylor, but was stripped of the title for missing a defense ... Was the third runner-up for *PWI's* Rookie of the Year honors in 2007.

210 CHRISTOPHER GRAY (5'10", 225, 6, NL) One-half of The British Lions frequently competes in Florida independent promotions, including Full Impact Pro ... With partner Tommy Taylor, lost in a match against FIP tag team champions Roderick Strong and Erick Stevens in May ... Sometimes wrestles solo for Pro Wrestling Fusion ... Defeated Shawn Osborne, Shawn Spears, and Francisco Ciatso in a four-way match in March ... Was previously under a WWE developmental deal ... An accomplished soccer player who once tried out to play for Manchester United.

211 SATOSHI KOJIMA (6', 247, 18, 93) Ever animated and fired up, All Japan's Kojima finally abandoned his villainous ways by leaving the heel Voodoo Murderers group after reuniting his famous "TenKoji" tandem with New Japan's Hiro Yoshi Tenzan ... Along with Tenzan, monopolized both All Japan and New Japan's tag leagues last year ... When Tenzan was struck down by injury at the beginning of 2009, "Cozy" focused on mentoring youngsters, KAI and Hiroshi Yamato.

212 2 COLD SCORPIO (5'11", 229, 24, 230) Pioneer of high-flying wrestling style is still going strong after nearly a quarter-century in the sport ... Primarily competes overseas these days, including for the British promotion One Pro Wrestling ... Lost to Nigel McGuinness in a 1PW match in April ... Defeated Zack Sabre Jr. the following night ... Has wrestled for ECW, WWE, and WCW, where he once held the tag team championship with Marcus Bagwell ... Reprised his "Flash Funk" character for a brief WWE run in 2007.

213 VAMPIRO (6'2", 260, 25, NL) The "Canadian Vampire" has returned to the country that made him successful ... Joined AAA in Joaquin Roldan's war against Konnan ... Started a feud with Mesias, which included several gruesome hardcore matches over the summer ... Became the commissioner of the company to neutralize Konnan's influence ... Was at odds with Chessman, but never battled him in the ring due to his position as commissioner ... Quit his commissioner job and battled Konnan in another series of matches ... His finisher is a chokeslam.

214 KARL ANDERSON (6', 240, 7, NL) The "Machine Gun" is unknown to many American fans as he plies his trade in Japan, forming a fearsome tag team with Giant Bernard ... Entered New Japan as part of the NJPW/NWA talent exchange last year and impressed so much that they decided to keep him ... Has worked his way up the card slowly, and with Bernard is now a valuable member of the new CHAOS faction.

215 CHAD COLLYER (5'10", 218, 12, 252) Collegiate standout graduated from the Malenko Pro Wrestling School and is one of the most technically skilled grapplers in the sport ... Had a brief run in TNA, followed by several appearances in Ring of Honor, but currently spends most of his time in England and Japan ... Competes under a mask as Metal Master, a name given to him by Jinsei Shinzaki ... Catch-as-catch-can specialist also has a background in jiu-jitsu ... Appeared on *ECW On SyFy* in May, losing to Vladimir Kozlov.

216 TOMMY TAYLOR (5'11", 205, 7, NL) Native of England is having plenty of success in Florida ... Taylor teams with Christopher Gray as The British Lions ... Adept mat wrestler formerly competed as Steve Taylor ... Had been under a WWE developmental contract but was released in 2008, which has freed up Taylor and Gray to become one of the top teams on the Florida independent scene ... Has had some heated, and evenly matched, singles bouts against countryman Nigel McGuinness.

217 NICK GAGE (5'11", 210, 10, NL) The three-time former Combat Zone Wrestling heavyweight champion suffered a scary injury in the 2009 CZW Tournament of Death in June ... Gage severed an artery in his right arm after being thrown into a pile of fluorescent light tubes in the tournament final and had to be airlifted to the hospital ... True to form, the ultra-hardcore Gage still wanted to compete, despite the life-threatening injury ... Has held every championship in CZW ... Favors the chokeslam, backbreaker, and hardcore drop brainbuster.

218 BRODIE LEE (6'6", 242, 6, 437) "Big Rig" has had a breakout year, making his Ring of Honor debut and completing tours of Germany and England ... Had a year-long feud with Claudio Castagnoli in CHIKARA, which culminated in an intense cage match ... Battled Necro Butcher in ROH ... Also continued to compete in his home base of upstate New York ... Rugged brawler has a one of the most destructive big boots in the business, and has been known to knock opponents unconscious with a kick to the face.

219 YOSHITATSU (6'1", 230, 7, NL) New Japan competitor has looked impressive since joining Florida Championship Wrestling ... Previously known as Yamamoto, he is well-trained in martial arts and utilizes a variety of quick strikes, kicks, and throws to keep adversaries off-balance ... Style is influenced by Keiji Muto and Antonio Inoki ... Uses a version of Inoki's octopus stretch as a tribute to the New Japan legend ... Equally adept at close-range grappling and striking, making him a dangerous challenge for any opponent.

220 SUPER CRAZY (5'8", 215, 18, 194) The craziest Luchador in the business went back to his roots ... Continued in WWE, working matches on *Smackdown* ... Released from the company and returned to Mexico to compete on the independent circuit ... Joined the Perros del Mal promotion, where he reunited with Juventud Guerrero to battle the Perros stable ... Also worked with his cousin Crazy Boy for the hardcore DTU promotion ... AAA tried to recruit him, but was unsuccessful ... Pins his opponents with a moonsault.

209 TO 224

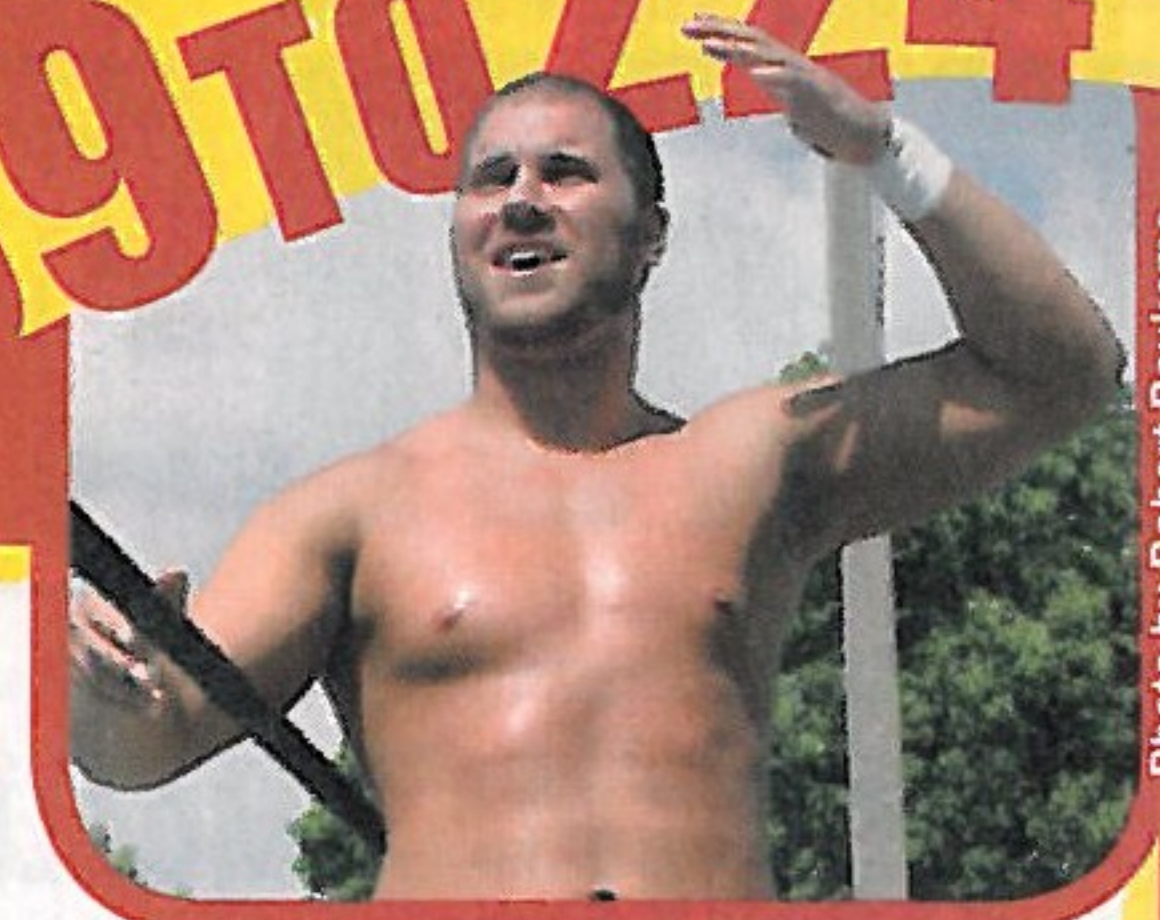


Photo by Robert Beukema

➔ 221 JOE HENNIG (6'3", 235, 2, NL) The son of WWE Hall of Famer Curt Hennig is a former Florida Championship Wrestling heavyweight champion and is one of the top prospects in the WWE developmental system ... Defeated Eric Escobar for the FCW title in February and held that championship for six weeks until he was forced to vacate the title due to injury ... Was the *PWI* Rookie of the Year ... Has incorporated several of his late father's signature moves into his repertoire, including his Hennig-plex suplex and flipping snapmare.

222 SCOTT LOST (5'9", 185, 9, 203) Southern California competitor was trained by Samoa Joe and Tom Howard ... Five-time Pro Wrestling Guerrilla tag team champion, most recently holding that title with Joey Ryan ... Defeated Scorpio Sky to win the AWS light-weight championship in August 2008 ... Main finishing move is called "The Big Fal Kill," a reverse roundhouse kick to the head ... Competed in the 2006 ECWA Super 8 tournament, losing to tourney winner Davey Richards in Round One.

223 MIKE MONDO (5'7", 229, 7, 261) Former member of The Spirit Squad has had his ups and downs since being released by WWE in 2008 ... Returned to his old stomping grounds in Ohio Valley Wrestling and won the TV title in February, beating Johnny Punch and Idol Stevens ... However, a failed drug test and a DUI have curtailed his momentum ... Widely considered to be one of the top technical members of The Spirit Squad, but has been hampered by his lack of size.

224 ZODIAC (6'3", 272, 4, NL) Mysterious masked man from the Dark Water Monastery is a three-time former USWF tag team champion ... He defeated J.R. Roc to win the Hardcore Championship Wrestling heavyweight title in April ... Also competes in Hoosier Pro Wrestling ... Had an intense feud with Roc that saw Zodiac tie Roc to the ropes and attempt to set him on fire ... Also feuded with Shawn Christopher ... Proves that the Iron Claw isn't passé as he has been using that old-school standby as an effective finishing hold.

pwi500

225 RORY McALLISTER (6'2", 230, 9, 196) Since being released from WWE in August 2008, The Highlanders have been on a winning streak in Border City Wrestling, collecting wins over Johnny Devine and Conrad Kennedy, Assault and Battery, and Asylum and Matt Burns ... Challenged Tyson Dux for the BCW Can-Am championship in May, but came up short ... Uses a simple (but very effective) brawling offense, consisting of clubbing blows, headbutts, and an occasional double-underhook piledriver for good measure.

226 KATSUHIKO NAKAJIMA (5'9", 209, 5, 201) Kensuke Sasaki's gifted protégé, who debuted at just 15 years old in January '04, finally turned 21 this March ... As part of the Kensuke Office's NOAH invasion, Nakajima won the GHC junior heavyweight championship from his new rival KENTA in February this year, but dropped it back to KENTA a month later ... Continues to mature and improve, with five titles already to his name in his short career.

227 REY BUCANERO (5'10", 210, 18, 115) Called the "Corsair Of Love" by Lucha Libre fans and announcers ... Formed part of Team Mexico to compete in the TNA World X Cup ... Won the trophy, alongside Ultimo Guerrero and Volador Jr. ... Made a few appearances at TNA house shows, teaming with Ultimo Guerrero ... Continued with the Guerreros de la Atlantida stable, teaming with Ultimo and Atlantis ... Lost the CMLL light heavyweight title to Mephisto ... Calls his finisher the Bucanero Storm.

228 EL HIJO DEL SANTO (5'6", 180, 27, 85) The heir of the "Silver Legend" keeps the gimmick going strong ... Continued competing on the independent circuit, mainly working with legends like Mil Mascaras and Dos Caras ... Battled his nemesis Blue Demon Jr. in several tag matches, but hasn't entered into a serious feud ... Returned to AAA, where he joined Joaquin Roldan's team to battle Konnan's Foreign Legion as part of a one-match deal ... Uses his father's camel clutch to win his matches.

229 MATT JACKSON (5'11", 195, 5, NL) Matt teams with his little brother, Nick,

as The Young Bucks ... Based in California, the brothers have competed in several NWA territories, as well as PWG, EWF, and Dragon Gate in Japan ... Former backyard wrestler got proper training from Ron Rivera and Marty Jannetty ... The brothers were named SoCal Uncensored Tag Team of the Year in 2007 and 2008 and are the reigning PWG tag team champions ... Matt hits the slam and moonsault that make up part of the team's More Bang for Your Buck finisher.

230 ROB TERRY (6'4", 260, 2, 438) A member of TNA's heel British Invasion faction along with Brutus Magnus and Doug Williams, the Welsh-born Terry relies almost exclusively on power-based moves and brawling at this early stage of his career ... Was previously signed to a WWE developmental contract and wrestled for FCW as Big Rob prior to his release ... Uses a couple of variations on the bodyslam, a full-nelson slam or a running powerslam.

231 RYOUJI SAI (6'3", 230, 8, NL) The tall and talented ZERO1 youngster finally began realizing his potential this year when he upset Shinjiro Otani to win the ZERO1 heavyweight title in March ... Was educated in Sidmouth, England, and speaks fluent English ... Named one of his finishers the Sidmouth after his time in Britain ... Achieved some fame by appearing on Fuji TV's popular *Ainori* program under the name of "Wrestler."

232 ROBBIE McALLISTER (6', 240, 9, 198) The hirsute Highlander was released by WWE in August 2008 ... Robbie is the muscle of the team, but can get lost without cousin Rory there to guide him ... Uses a slingshot suplex as his singles finisher, and a variation of the same move as his tag team finisher with Rory ... Inadvertently created controversy when he was shown in the audience on TNA *Impact* while under a WWE contract last year ... Enjoys putting opponents heads underneath his kilt, which is just wrong on a variety of levels.



Photo by George Tahinos

233 ZOKRE (5'8", 174, 6, 302) Pro Wrestling Guerrilla competitor hails from Ozaca, Mexico ... Known for his high-flying skills, including a crisp 450 splash ... Teams with Phoenix Star as Los Luchas in PWG ... Scored a singles victory over Scorpio Sky in February but more frequently competes in tag team and six-man bouts ... The team defeated Jagged and Shane Matthews in the first round of the PWG Dynamite Duumvirate tag team title tournament in 2008, but then lost to Jack Evans and Roderick Strong.

234 DAISUKE SEKIMOTO (5'9", 240, 10, NL) One of Big Japan Pro-Wrestling's most successful talents, the short but stocky Sekimoto is a star of the Japanese independent scene ... Strays away from BJPW's bloody death match style, utilizing his natural talents in regular matches ... Challenged Ryoji Sai for the ZERO1 heavyweight title in April but fell short ... Sports one of the most unique German suplexes in the game, lifting victims completely off the mat.

235 NICK JACKSON (5'11", 200, 5, NL) Nick is one-half of The Young Bucks tag team along with his brother, Matt ... Both brothers hail from Rancho Cucamonga, California, and have held the Pro Wrestling Guerrilla and Empire Wrestling Federation tag team titles ... Have completed three tours of Japan with Dragon Gate ... Trained fellow brother team The Cutler Brothers ... Tag team finisher is called More Bang For Your Buck, a rolling fireman's carry slam, followed by a 450 splash, followed by a moonsault.

236 DARK OZZ (5'11", 220, 13, NL) Considered the most dangerous member of the Black Family ... Turned on Mesias and took full leadership of the Family ... Started battling Mesias in several single and tag matches ... Lost the Mexican National Atomic title, but complained about the loss so much, the title was declared vacant ... Joined Konnan's Foreign Legion, and started battling several AAA wrestlers ... Occasionally

appearing by himself in main event matches, but spends most of his time teaming with Zorro and Electroshock ... Uses La Darketa, a front flip piledriver, and a lethal corkscrew bodypress as his finishers.

237 STEVIE RICHARDS (6'2", 227, 17, 210) Dr. Stevie tossed the Hippocratic Oath right out the window with his unorthodox treatment of Abyss ... Returned to ECW after throat surgery in 2008, but was released in August ... After recovering from a collapsed lung, competed in NWA-No Limits, MCW, and other indies ... Debuted in TNA in February as Abyss' analyst ... Reunited with old pal Raven in May ... Master of the Stevie-Kick also has a solid underhook DDT.

238 COLT CABANA (6'1", 235, 10, 245) The Ring of Honor favorite graduated to WWE after a year in the developmental system, debuting on Smackdown as Scotty Goldman in August 2008 ... Goldman never caught on and he was released by WWE in February ... Returned to his roots on the indy scene, including ROH and PWG ... Previously held the ROH tag title with C.M. Punk ... Widely known for his comedy, Cabana also has held more than two dozen titles and competed all over the country.

239 PHIL SHATTER (6'3", 242, 8, 464) Former NWA-Anarchy heavyweight champion recently debuted on TNA as part of Mick Foley's security squad ... Based in the Carolinas and known as "The Universal Solider" ... Was signed to a WWE developmental contract in September 2008 but was released just two months later ... Big, powerful competitor wrestles a slow, methodical style, battering opponents with thudding right hands, clubbing forearms, and a variety of jarring slams.

240 KID KASH (5'9", 202, 15, 228) The Notorious K.I.D. has been active on the southern independent circuit since leaving WWE in 2006 ... Branched out into mixed martial arts in March, but suffered a loss ... Defeated Jerry Lynn to win the Showtime All-Star Wrestling International championship ... The always outspoken competitor is a former ECW TV champion, TNA X division champion, and WWE cruiserweight champion ... Has one of wrestling's most dangerous finishers in his Dead Level snap brainbuster.

225 TO 240

PWI 500

241 CHICKY STARR (5'11", 218, 31, NL) Still as charismatic and treacherous as ever at age 51, Starr has feuded with a Who's Who of native and imported talent that have made their way through Puerto Rico ... Made an impact both as an active wrestler and manager ... As an active wrestler, he has primarily concentrated on tag team wrestling, winning seven WWC tag team championships ... He is now almost seven years removed from his brief reign as WWC Universal champion.

242 TAIYO KEA (6'1", 234, 15, 338) The Hawaii native has spent all 15 years of his career with All Japan Pro-Wrestling, never once joining an American promotion ... Forms one of Japan's most dominant tag teams of recent years with Gurentai friend Minoru Suzuki, the two having held the AJPW tag team title since June '08 ... Finishes most of his big matches with the TKO34th, a lethal sit-out Death Valley driver.

243 JASON HADES (5'9", 185, 6, NL) Midwest standout is a former IWA: Mid-South light heavyweight champion ... Dropped that championship to Dingo ... Defeated Jayson Quick in an "I Quit" match in September with both the light heavyweight title and the rights to use the name "Ja(y)son" at stake ... Has feuded with both Quick and Prince Mustafa Ali ... Also competes in Elite Pro Wrestling ... Main finisher is the Killswitch ... Good technical wrestler, particularly adept at armbar submissions.

244 MILANO COLLECTION A.T. (6', 187, 9, 158) The charismatic and skillful "Italian" has made New Japan Pro-Wrestling his home for the better part of three years now ... Has struggled to make a big impact since winning the 2007 Best of the Super Junior tournament ... An invasion into Pro Wrestling NOAH with Shinsuke Nakamura earlier this year seemed to reignite his career following a great performance ... Finished opponents with his Victoria Milanese suplex.

245 B.J. (5'10", 230, 4, NL) One of the fastest-rising young competitors in Puerto Rico, B.J. challenged WWC Universal heavyweight champion Steve

Corino at the 36th installment of WWC's Anniversario event ... He has been touted by many—even Corino—as a future Universal Champion as he gains additional experience ... Has already held the WWC Puerto Rican championship ... Emerged victorious in his feud with Tommy Diablo ... In the decisive match, B.J. overcame a pre-match sneak-attack to rally and score a clean pinfall victory.

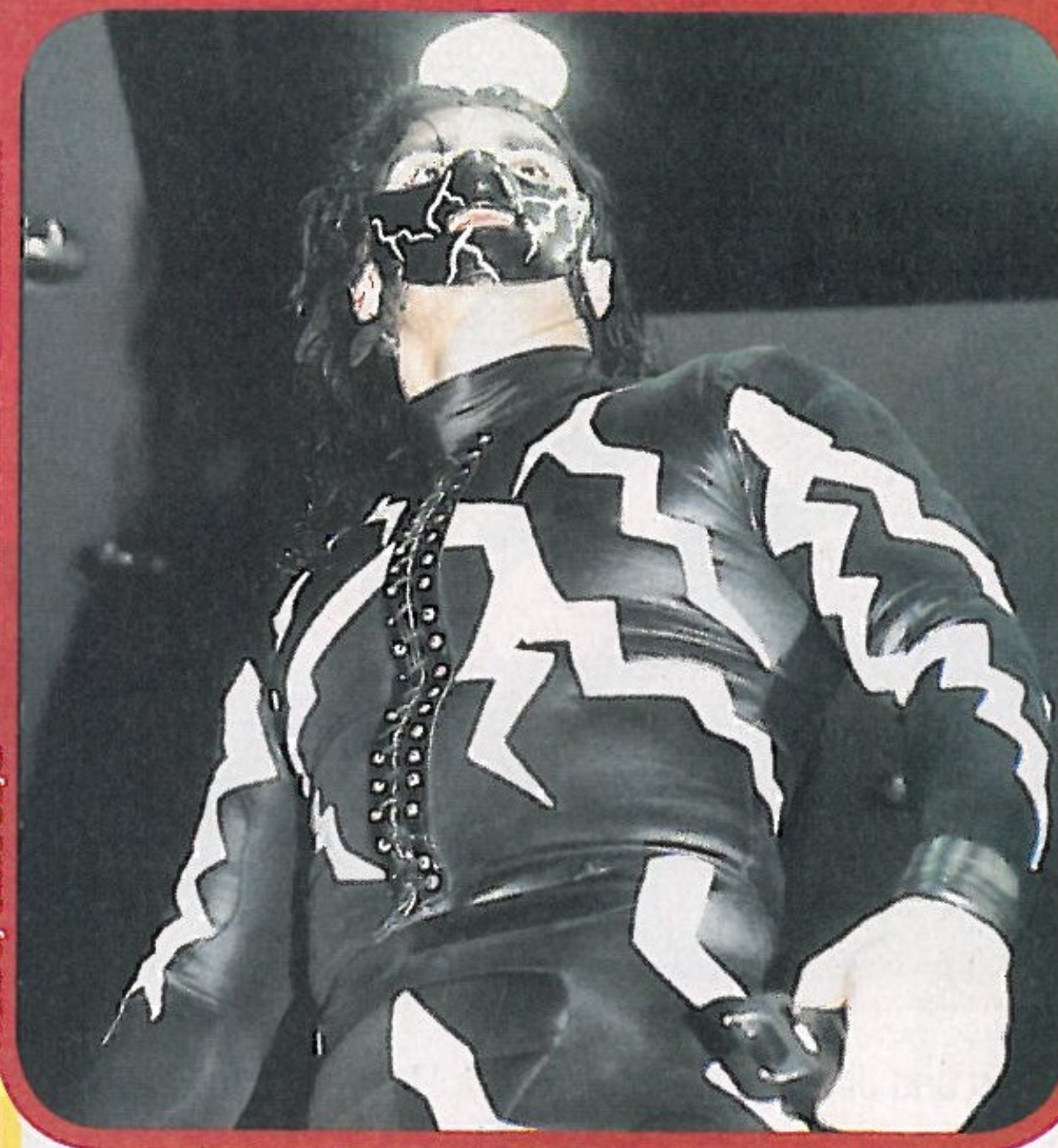
246 RICKY REYES (5'9", 192, 5, 205) The Cuban-American grappler is currently wrestling in Puerto Rico for Carlos Colon's World Wrestling Council ... Made his WWC debut at the Euphoria event ... Won the WWC junior heavyweight championship in an X-style match that also featured Hiram Tua, Tommy Diablo, Johnny Styles, and Angel ... "The Havana Pitbull" packs considerable power in his compact frame ... Possesses several finishing-move variations of a scooplift, turning it either into a brainbuster or a dragon sleeper with bodyscissors.

247 MIKE QUACKENBUSH (6', 191, 18, 157) "The Master Of 1,000 Holds" is the founder of CHIKARA Pro Wrestling ... Describes his grappling style as, "One part luchador, one part puroresu junior heavyweight, and one part British technician" ... Has competed up and down the East Coast and has made several tours of Mexico and Europe ... Signature moves include the Quackendriver 3 and the Black Tornado Slam ... Has held the NWA junior heavyweight title since May 2007 ... Also is a prolific writer with five books to his credit.

248 PEPPER PARKS (6', 225, 10, 256) Former NWA National champion was all set to take the U.K. by storm with a planned two-month tour, but was detained upon arrival in England and turned back to the U.S. just two days later ... Defeated A.J. Styles and Ricky Reyes to become the number-one contender for the NWA-Upstate heavyweight title, currently held by Danny Doring ... Feuded with Doring for that championship, and feuded with Cody Deaner for the PWX heavyweight title ... Has appeared on *ECW On SyFy*.



Photo by Steve Beyer



249 LINCE DORADO (5'7", 171, 3, 275) "The Golden Lynx" formed an alliance with former enemy Jimmy Olsen in late-2008 ... Teamed with Olsen and Helios to advance to the semifinals of CHIKARA's King of Trios tournament ... Known for his stunning shooting star press and his shooting star senton press ... Also has an impressive moonsault uranage ... Innovative high-flier is heavily influenced by lucha libre style ... Also goes by the nickname "The Future Is Now."

250 JASON BLADE (5'11", 192, 5, 253) New England-based competitor periodically wrestles in Ring of Honor ... Athletic wrestler favors a methodical offense, often targeting an opponent's arm or knee and working that body part until he can set up his finisher, The Switchblade ... Has one of the finest precision standing dropkicks in wrestling ... Held the FIP tag team title with Kenny King for 13 months, dropping the belts in December 2008 ... Also held the Chaotic Wrestling tag title with Kid Mikaze.

251 JOHNNY DEVINE (5'10", 222, 12, 130) Former running buddy of Team 3-D left TNA in October 2008, saying he was not enjoying himself in that environment ... Returned to the independent circuit and is teaching at Scott D'Amore's wrestling school ... Was inducted into the PWA Edmonton Hall of Fame ... Recent high-profile bouts include matches against Kevin Nash, Cody Deaner, The Highlanders, and Tyson Dux.

252 BAM NEELY (6'7", 275, 7, NL) Robbinsdale, Minnesota, man-monster follows in the footsteps of Rick Rude, Nikita Koloff, and Curt Hennig ... Competed in Ohio Valley Wrestling as Justin

LaRouche before getting the call-up to the ECW brand in early-2008 ... Served as a bodyguard for La Familia ... Teamed with Chavo Guerrero Jr. to beat Kane in a handicap match in his in-ring debut in ECW ... Chavo and Neely had a falling out and the big man was released by WWE in January.

253 GRAN AKUMA (5'10", 192, 7, 270) Team F.I.S.T. member is one of the top rudos in CHIKARA and also competes for CZW and FIP, among other promotions ... Held CHIKARA's Campeonatos de Parejas tag title with Icarus for 11 months in 2006-07 ... Highlight of the past year was teaming with Icarus and Chuck Taylor to win the 2009 King of Trios Tournament, beating Bryan Danielson, Claudio Castagnoli, and Dave Taylor in the finals ... Top moves include the Falcon Arrow sit-out slam and the Yoshi Tonic sunset flip power bomb.

254 ELECTROSHOCK (6'2", 209, 17, NL) Called "The Luchador With 100,000 Watts Of Violence" ... Joined Konnan's Foreign legion ... Teamed with Zorro, Kenzo Suzuki, and The Hart Foundation 2.0 ... Feuded with Superfly in dramatic matches ... Saved his hair in a six-man steel cage match ... Entered the Rey de Reyes tournament and won the title by defeating Latin Lover in the finals ... Failed to earn a shot at Mesias' AAA heavyweight title when he was defeated by Dr. Wagner Jr. ... His finisher is called El Cristo.

255 EL BRONCO (5'11", 235, 23, NL) The Dominican Republic native has been a fixture on the Puerto Rican wrestling scene for years ... He's a three-time holder of the WWC universal heavyweight championship as well as a 10-time co-holder of the WWC tag team championship, most frequently with Ray Gonzalez ... He has also done battle against Gonzalez ... Also teamed with Invader #1 and El Diamante.

256 AL SNOW (6', 234, 27, 348) Mick Foley's favorite whipping boy has been keeping busy on the independent scene and is trying his hand at acting ... Competed in CHIKARA's 2009 King of Trios Tourney as the leader of The Cold Front with Glacier and D-Lo Brown ... Made a quick stop in TNA as a surprise at Final Resolution 2008 where he slapped Foley and helped Kurt Angle beat Rhino ... Toured Australia this spring.

241 TO 256

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➔ 257 EDDIE KINGSTON

(5'11", 228, 6, 278) Former Combat Zone Wrestling star also has been competing for CHIKARA, Pro Wrestling Guerilla, JAPW, and several other promotions ... Competed in the 2008 Ted Petty Invitational tournament, beating Necro Butcher in the first round before falling to Sami Callihan ... Returned to CZW in February, losing to CZW heavy-weight champion Drake Younger in a no-ropes barbed-wire death match ... Beat Bandido Jr. for the JAPW New Jersey title ... Fearless brawler throws a wicked spinning backfist.

258 NICHOLAS (5'10", 220, 18, NL) The "Millionaire" is one-half of the most violent tag team in AAA ... With Joe Lider, he formed La Hermandad Extrema, and won the AAA tag team title from Extreme Tiger and Halloween ... Duo feuded with The Hart Foundation 2.0 and successfully defended the belts ... Joined Konnan's Foreign Legion to attack many AAA wrestlers at random ... Became involved in an intense feud with Marco Corleone and Latin Lover ... Uses a devastating legdrop as his finisher.

259 ACE STEELE (5'9", 215, 18, 231) The Chicago veteran and former Second City Saint is still best known by many fans for his portrayal of Donald Trump in the infamous 2007 match against a Rosie O'Donnell impostor ... Was released from his WWE developmental contract in February 2008 ... Highly respected veteran has competed throughout the U.S. and toured Japan with Pro Wrestling NOAH ... Main finishers are a variation of the Gory neckbreaker and a steel spike diving DDT.

260 JOHNNY KASHMERE (6', 192, 11, 359) Former Backseat Boy (with Trent Acid) is the owner of Pro Wrestling Unplugged in Philadelphia ... Still an active competitor ... Wrestled Rich Swann in a lauded bout ... Ushering in a new concept called "Wrestle-Reality," to promote a more realistic and competitive style of matches ... Named the general manager of the Celebrity Boxing Federation ... Also writes a weekly Internet column ... Primary finisher is the cradle breaker, a cradle suplex left transitioned into a neckbreaker.

261 HELIOS (5'10", 174, 5, 305) The former Ricochet has formed an alliance with Lince



Photo by Scott Finkelstein

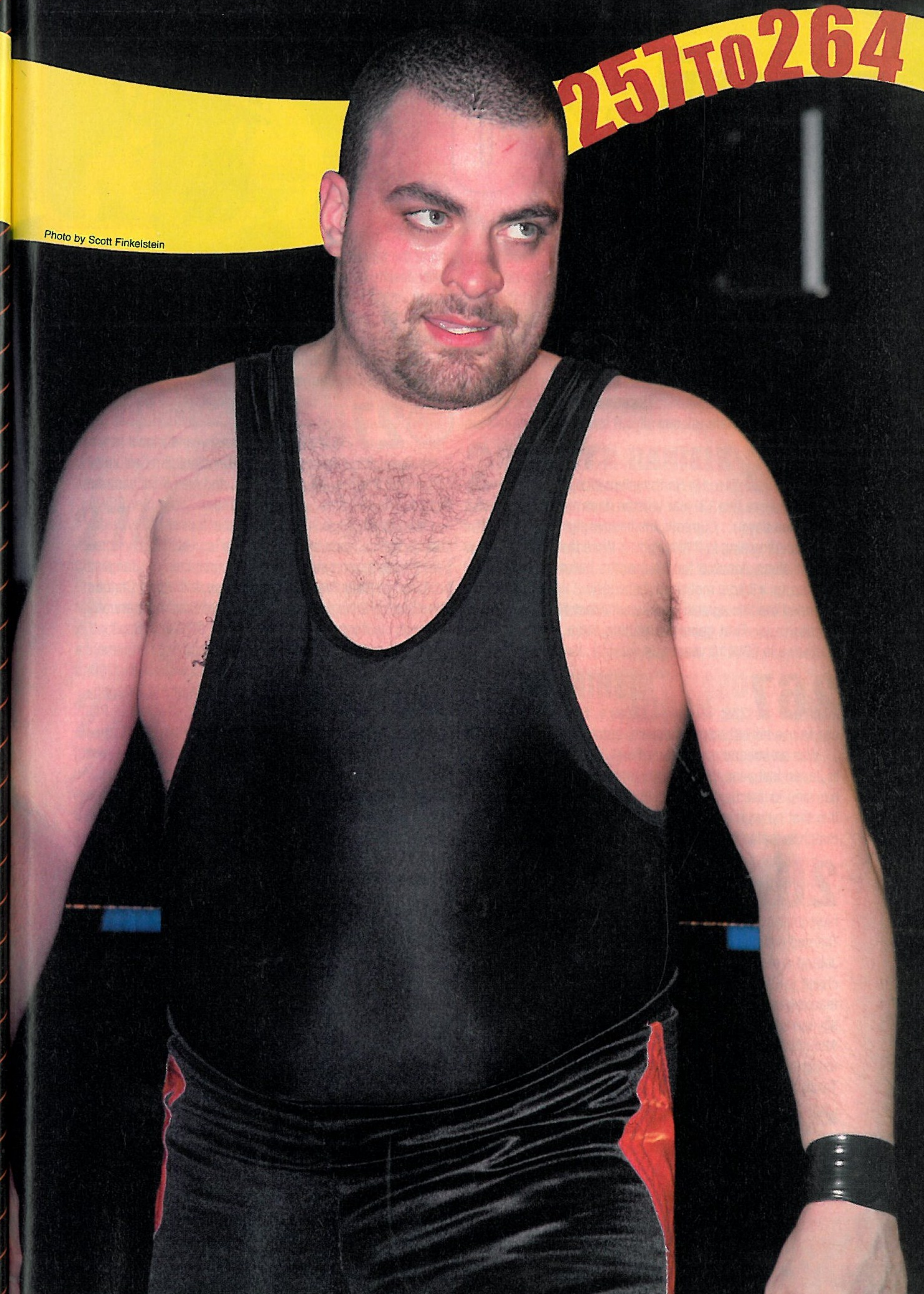
Dorado and Jimmy Olsen known as The Future Is Now in CHIKARA ... Has begun using the 630 splash as his main finishing move in recent months ... Former Young Lions Cup champion had earned the nickname "The Future Of Flight" for his aerial artistry ... Masked fan favorite is also known for his Burning Star Driver and his double-flying kneedrop, which he calls The Sky Is Falling.

262 RIKI CHOSHU (6', 265, 35, NL) The iconic bad boy of Japanese pro wrestling in the '80s, "Power Hall" is now some 35 years into an incredible career ... Originally retired in 1998 but returned in 2000 to help New Japan's struggling business ... Appears more sporadically nowadays, often teaming with young wrestlers while occasionally venturing into other promotions for special appearances ... Few wrestlers are more synonymous with the lariat as Choshu.

263 MR. NIEBLA (5'9", 187, 19, 138) Called the rudo with the best hip moves by fans ... Started a feud with Dr. Wagner Jr. ... Formed a new stable called La Peste Negra with Negro Casas ... Recruited the remaining Casas brothers Felino and Heavy Metal into the stable ... Won an impressive amount of tag matches teaming with The Casas Brothers ... Occasionally allied himself with Dos Caras Jr. and Villano V ... Makes his opponents submit to a painful move called El Nudo.

⬆ **264 ICARUS** (5'10", 174, 7, 272) Hated rudo led his team F.I.S.T. to victory in CHIKARA's annual King of Trios tournament ... Teamed with Chuck Taylor and Gran Akuma to defeat Bryan Danielson, Claudio Castagnoli, and Dave Taylor in the tournament's final ... Recently lost his locks in a mask-vs.-hair tag team match teaming with Chuck Taylor against Soldier Ant and Fire Ant ... "Winged Ring Warrior" is one of CHIKARA's most senior roster members, having wrestled on its first show in 2002.

Photo by Scott Finkelstein



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Photo by Joe Zanolle

265 HALLOWICKED (6'1", 195, 7, 289) Masked "Dark Minion Of The Underworld" is a regular in Philadelphia-based CHIKARA ... Claims to hail from Sleepy Hollow, which is actually a quaint little town in upstate New York ... His team, "Incoherence" with Delirious and Nightmare, did not make it out of the first round of the King of Trios tournament ... Picked up a singles victory against Grizzly Redwood in December ... Finishing move is a fisherman's suplex lift into sit-out spinebuster bomb.

266 CHRISTIAN YORK (5'11", 215, 13) Northeastern independent promotions are where this 13-year veteran does most of his business these days ... Currently the heavyweight champion of Far North Wrestling in Pittsburgh ... Wore the MCW heavyweight championship for 14 months before losing it to Ruckus in a cage match in February ... Successfully defended the title against the likes of Adam Flash and Joey Matthews ... First gained wrestling fame teaming with Matthews in ECW 10 years ago.

267 OSAMU NISHIMURA (6'1", 232, 18, NL) All Japan's "Mr. Muga" continues to use his old school catch-as-catch-can style in 2009 ... Was an integral part of Dory Funk Jr.'s retirement series in Japan last year, teaming one last time with the man he has long idolized ... Still holds the New Korea heavyweight title that he won last May from Riki Passan in a three-way match that also featured Kurt Angle.

268 TEXANO JR. (6'1", 220, 8, NL) The ruthless luchador is slowly becoming a high-impact rudo ... Shaved the head of Heavy Metal ... Teamed with the Perros del Mal stable until the team left ... Joined a new stable called Hijos del Averno to bring more chaos to CMLL ... Won several tag team matches, mainly teaming with El Terrible ... Feuded with Maximo, eventually leading to Texano shaving Maximo's head ... Defeated Atlantis for the NWA light heavyweight title ... Known for using a bull rope in most of his matches ... Finisher is the Texan backbreaker.

269 IKUTO HIDAKA (5'7", 187, 12, NL) Ever quick and skillful, Hidaka remains

one of the most exciting juniors in Japan, losing none of his ability despite being 36 now ... A graduate of the Hamaguchi Dojo in Japan, Hidaka debuted for Battlarts before journeying through Michinoku Pro and ECW and finding his current home, ZERO1 ... Has been part of an on-and-off team with Minoru Fujita since 1998, their most recent reunion coming on New Year's Day this year.

270 ADEN CHAMBERS (6', 190, 7, 324) Last year's winner of the ECWA Super 8 tournament ... Fun-loving Southern California-native beat Frankie Arion, Maverick, and Alex Koslov in one night to win the prestigious tournament ... Former ECWA heavyweight champion defeated another former heavyweight champ, Prince Nana, last September ... Has largely competed in tag team matches in ECWA since then ... Can also be found in other New England indies, including Chaotic Wrestling ... If the careers of past Super 8 winners are any example, big things could be in store for "The O.C. Boy."

271 JOSH PROHIBITION (6', 200, 8, 217) Self-righteous villain of the independent scene is the current heavyweight champion of Pro Wrestling Ohio in his home state ... Challenged former champion Matt Cross for the title after Cross had just defended the belt in an exhausting match against Johnny Gargano ... Has long preached against the evils of drugs and alcohol ... Calls his double underhook piledriver finisher the Drunken Driver ... A skilled baseball player, Prohibition discovered wrestling only after a shoulder injury ended his dreams to play in the majors.

272 TOMMY SUEDE (5'11", 218, 10, NL) Hazleton, Pennsylvania, resident makes the rounds in the Northeastern independent scene, but got his biggest break over the past year for his participation in the making of a wrestling movie ... A student of Samoan Afa's training school, Suede was recruited to train Mickey Rourke for his role as Randy "The Ram" Robinson in *The Wrestler* ... Made an appearance in the movie, wrestling as "Tommy Rotten" ... Competes for New York/New Jersey promotion Pro Wrestling Syndicate ... Has a breathtaking arsenal that includes a 450-splash and a running shooting star press.

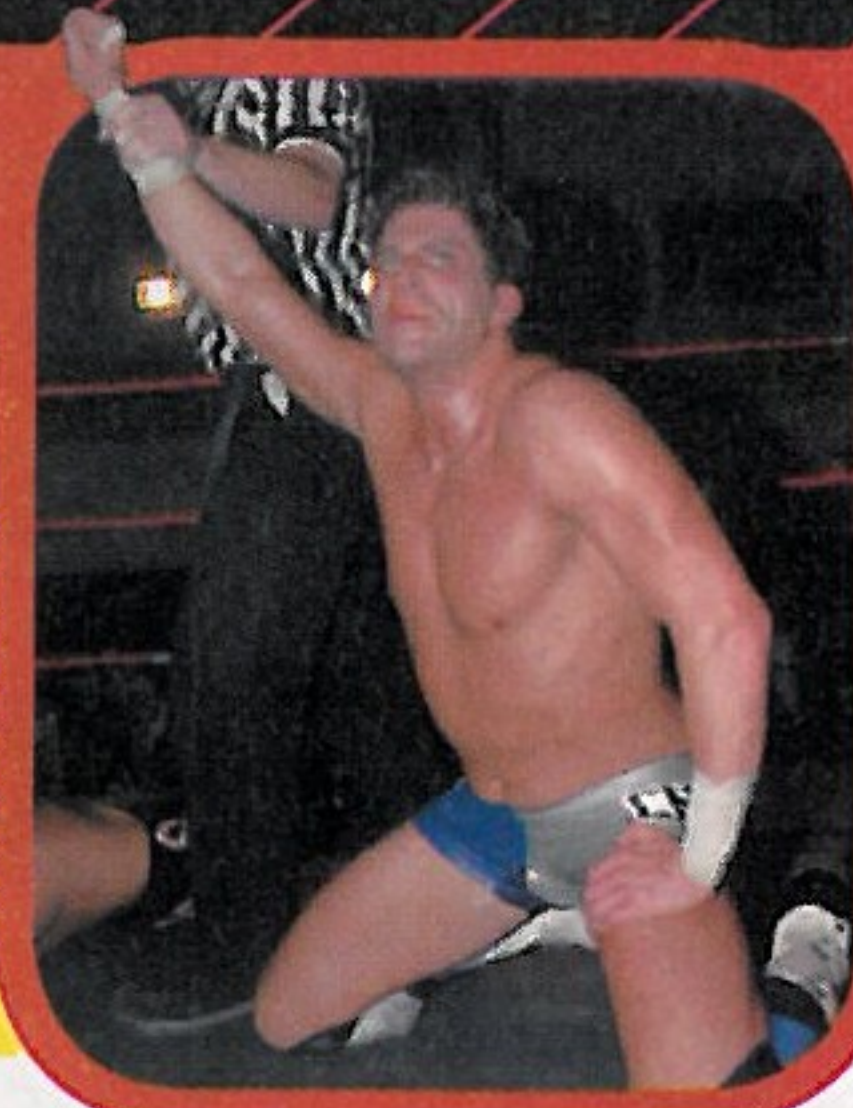


Photo by Joe Zanolle

273 SANGRE AZTECA (5'9", 190, 12, 133) The young hard-working athlete is still a threat to many luchadores ... Defended his national welterweight title against Mictlan and Dragon Rojo Jr. ... Abandoned the Guerreros de la Atlantida stable ... Created a team called Poder Mexico, recruiting Black Warrior and Dragon Rojo Jr. ... The team was successful and won the national trios title by defeating La Sombra, El Sagrado, and Volador Jr. ... Feuded with several tecnico teams in under-card matches.

274 COBIAN (6'4", 265, 2, NL) This massive physical specimen debuted in Maryland Championship Wrestling in 2008 as a hired thug working for Christian York and Joey Matthews ... Defeated decorated MCW veteran Adam Flash in impressive fashion at Holiday Hell in December 2008 ... Beat Bobby Shields in the first round of a tournament for the vacant MCW TV title, but lost to Queenan Creed in the tourney finals ... Also competes in WXW.

275 RICKY LANDELL (6'1", 221, 6, 295) Star pupil of Steve Corino reigned for four months as the AWA Superstars heavyweight champion until dropping the title to Keith Walker in February ... Received the prestigious Future Superstar award from the Cauliflower Alley Club in 2008 ... Has an expansive repertoire, usually favoring a brainbuster or a lariat to win matches, but equally adept at submission grappling, using the guillotine choke or sleeper ... A former Pro Wrestling WORLD-1 (Japan) heavyweight champion.

276 CHASE DEL MONTE (6'1", 215, 4, NL) Immensely popular wrestler from the Jersey Shore is the reigning East Coast Wrestling Association heavyweight champion and is also a former ECWA Mid-Atlantic champion ... Beat Billy Bax, Frederick of Hollywood, and Dan Eckos in a four-way for the ECWA title in March ... Also currently holds the Chaotic Wrestling heavyweight title and is a former CW New England champion ... Primary finishing moves are a variation of the diamond cutter and a frog splash, which he sets up with a superkick or flipping neckbreaker.

265 TO 280

277 BRAIN DAMAGE (6'4", 270, 6, 294) Combat Zone Wrestling mainstay is establishing himself as one of the sport's leading hardcore specialists ... When he's not bloodying opponents with shards of broken glass or barbed wire, he's dropping them on their heads with a package piledriver or knocking them silly with a stiff jab to the face ... A two-time CZW ultraviolet underground champion and two-time Ironman champion ... Has recently added extra bulk, but it just seems to put more wallop behind his punches and kicks.

278 JOSH DANIELS (5'8", 205, 7, 247) Mainstay in the Northeast has successfully incorporated mixed martial arts techniques and holds in Maryland Championship Wrestling ... Held New York Wrestling Connection's hi-fi title, ISPW heavyweight title, and wrestles for NWA-NJ ... Has wrestled Nunzio multiple times ... Wrestled Jack Swagger in Swagger's ECW TV debut ... Still enlists his technical know-how, but has moved toward a wrecking ball style, utilizing a barrage of chops, throws, strikes, clotheslines, German suplexes, and bridging back-drop suplexes to finish opponents.

279 MATT LOGAN (6', 215, 7, 258) Matt is one of three wrestling brothers, along with Bryan and Nick ... Also an accomplished singles competitor, having held the ECWA Mid-Atlantic championship ... Competed in the 2007 ECWA Super 8 tournament, upsetting former WWE tag champion Rob Conway in the first round before falling to tourney winner Jerry Lynn in the semifinals ... Recently won his third Chaotic Wrestling tag team championship with brother Bryan ... Has also held the ECWA tag title and has feuded extensively with The Valedictorians and The Chick Magnets.

280 BOBBY FISH (5'10", 228, 7, 303) Formerly known as Jerk Jackson, "The Infamous" Bobby Fish has been making an impact in Japan and makes periodic appearances in Ring of Honor ... Albany, New York, native currently is based in Pro Wrestling NOAH ... Combines stiff knee strikes and headbutts with the aerial artistry of a light heavyweight ... Has begun using the Falcon's Arrow more frequently ... Trained by ECW alumnus Tony DeVito ... Frequently teams with fellow w (and ROH semi-regulars) Chris Hero and Bison Smith.

PWI 500

281 BRANDON CUTLER (6'3", 185, 4, NL) SoCal Pro competitor regularly teams with his brother, Dustin ... Both brothers utilize quick tags, double-team maneuvers, and synchronized attacks to keep foes off-balance ... Brandon's style is similar to C.M. Punk's, as he uses several high kicks, running knee attacks, and elbow strikes ... Also competes in Pro Wrestling Guerrilla ... Uses a version of the Codebreaker when an opponent is on the top rope, adding more impact to the move.

282 MASA AKI MOCHIZUKI (5'9", 187, 15, 255) The talented kicker, who first made a name for himself in Genichiro Tenryu's WAR promotion in the 1990s, is still going strong ... Despite his affiliation with Dragon Gate, often competes in other promotions ... Promotes his own independent shows under the "Buyuden" label, bringing together wrestlers from all across Japan ... Finishers include the Shin Saikyou high kick and the Twister, a twisting brainbuster.

283 SHOCKER (5'9", 190, 17, 263) "The 1000-Percent Handsome" one remains popular with the ladies ... Continued to be a main event competitor as he found success when teaming with either Marco Corleone or Dos Caras Jr. ... Was unsuccessful in his attempt to take the CMLL heavyweight title from Ultimo Guerrero earlier this year ... Aided Blue Panther in his battle with the Imperial Dynasty ... Feuded with former partner Caras ... Formed a team with Hector Garza and Mistico to battle Dos Caras and Japanese team No Limit ... Makes his opponents submit to called La Reinera, a variation of the torture rack.

284 GLEN OSBOURNE (6'1", 260, 19, 175) The thick-chested man with the war paint is a 19-year veteran and a member of the East Coast Wrestling Association Hall of Fame ... Former ECWA heavyweight and Mid-Atlantic champion ... Defeated fellow ECWA icon Ace Darling in a Loser-Must-Retire match in September 2008 ... Known as "The Beast," the big man relies on power maneuvers, such as the chokeslam and the power bomb, but also has the agility to surprise foes with a crisp dropkick.

285 C.W. ANDERSON (6'1", 230, 16, NL) Anderson is back in action after con-

sidering retirement ... Was briefly a part of the WWE roster when the company re-launched ECW, but was released in 2007, after just one televised match against C.M. Punk ... Currently competing for NWA-Charlotte and recently toured Germany with the GSW promotion ... Has dropped about 40 pounds since his ECW heyday, which he attributes to a new cardiovascular training regiment ... Feuding with fellow Anderson, Brad Anderson.

286 FRANCISCO CIATSO (5'10", 234, 12, NL) "Goodfella" from Brooklyn currently is based in the Orlando area ... Trained by "Exotic" Adrian Street ... Has competed in Puerto Rico and England, as well as throughout the American southeast ... Has held the AWA Southern title, the IPW TV and tag titles, the EWW (England) heavyweight title, and the USCW heavyweight title, among others ... Has also competed as "Uptown" Frankie Capone ... Main finisher is an inverted stunner variation.

287 DERANGED (6'2", 310, 5, NL) Massive student of Ian Rotten teams with Brain Damage as Vulgar Display of Power ... The team won its second consecutive Double Death tag team tournament in October 2008, earning wins over Necro Butcher and Toby Klein (in a fans-bring-the-weapons match), Tracey Smothers and Corporal Robinson (Texas death match), Dysfunction and Danny Havoc (fans-bring-the-weapons), and Devon Moore and Drake Younger in an insane no-rope-barbed-wire- Caribbean-spider web-light-tube-barbed-wire-coffin match ... Has an impressive moonsault and a lethal pumphandle slam.

288 BRYAN LOGAN (6', 215, 6, 173) Bryan is the oldest of three wrestling Logan brothers ... Wrestles in both the ECWA and Chaotic Wrestling ... Competed in the 2006 ECWA Super 8 tournament, losing to Milano Collection A.T. in the first round ... Lowell, Massachusetts, native is a former ECWA tag team champion, ECWA Mid-Atlantic champion, and three-time (and current) Chaotic tag champion with brother Matt ... Tag team finisher is a wheelbarrow into an Ace crusher.



Photo by Joe Zanolle



Photo by Tim Walker

289 ULTRAMANTIS BLACK (6', 206, 7, 357) The bug-headed rudo from Parts Unknown is based in CHIKARA and has also competed for CZW, IWA: Mid-South, and JAPW ... Rules the nefarious Order of the Neo-Solar Temple in CHIKARA ... Recently turned Delirious to the dark side, courtesy of the mind control capabilities of the mysterious "Eye Of Tyr" ... Graduated from the CHIKARA Wrestle Factory ... Signature moves include the Praying Mantis Bomb, the Lungblower, and the Japanese Ocean Cyclone suplex.

290 A.J. ISTRIA (6', 195, 3, NL) "The Ultimate Athlete" is getting rave reviews as one of Australia's top rising wrestlers, with some observers going so far as to call him one of the top young prospects in the southern hemisphere ... Brash and arrogant youngster is managed by Donnie St. Michael ... Won the 2009 Rise of the Warriors tournament, beating former tourney winners Esteban Molina and Mason Childs in the finals ... Has held both the PWA Underground and PWA Queensland tag title.

291 DUSTIN CUTLER (6'3", 220, 4, NL) Southern California competitor teams with his brother, Brandon ... The brothers were trained by Ron Rivera and The Young Bucks ... Made their Pro Wrestling Guerrilla debut in January in a losing effort against Phoenix Star and Zokre ... Agile and innovative brothers utilize rolling shoulderblocks, leg lariats, and roundhouse kicks to ground opponents ... Dustin targets opponents' knees with a low dropkick that is difficult to defend ... Dustin is the more powerful of the two brothers.

292 SHANE SEWELL (6', 230, 20, NL) Short-fused referee finally became an in-ring competitor in TNA when he had all he could take from Sheik Abdul Bashir ... Sewell defeated Bashir at Genesis and actually became one of TNA's most popular performers, but his momentum didn't last ... Split his time as a referee and

wrestler and wound up on the losing end of a feud with Booker T ... Expected to return to Puerto Rico's WWC shortly ... Fiery brawler has a formidable elbowdrop.

293 DYLAN KLEIN (6'4", 235, 5, NL) Cocky Florida Championship Wrestling competitor is on the short list of potential call-ups to the main WWE roster ... Has the physical size, charisma, and ring presence that make him stand out from the pack ... Had previously been managed by the lovely Beverly Mullins, but those beautiful people have since split ... Known for his unique half-blond, half-black hairstyle ... Personality can be compared to The Miz or a young John Tatum.

294 ARICK ANDREWS (6', 225, 6, NL) "The Dragon" is a former USWO TV champion, losing that title to Jerry Lynn ... Competes throughout the Southeast ... Top contender to the Showtime All-Star Wrestling heavyweight title held by Kid Kash ... Previously held the NWA-Top Rope junior heavyweight title ... Signature moves include the Dragon Sleeper, the Dragon's Curse, and the "Wham Bam Thank You Ma'am" ... Genial fan favorite is slow to anger but not afraid to brawl when the situation calls for it.

295 ACID JAZZ (5'11", 195, 4, NL) Teams with Marshe Rockett as Da Soul Touchaz ... Da Soul Touchaz won the 2008 Candido Cup tag team tournament in 2008, but suffered a broken leg and a dislocated ankle in the process ... Currently recovering from those injuries ... Competes in CHIKARA and IWA: Mid-South ... Has been wowing fans with the way he incorporates slick dances moves into his game, including a hot breakdancing elbowdrop ... Known as "Hot Chocolate" ... Based out of Chicago.

296 STERLING JAMES KEENAN (6'1", 220, 9, 341) Pittsburgh native has extended his winning ways into international territory, winning the 1 Pro Wrestling (United Kingdom) heavyweight championship ... Has also held the ZERO1 U.S. title on two occasions and is the reigning Ballpark Brawl Natural heavyweight champion ... Lifted his rock and roll sensibilities from his hero, Maynard James Keenan of Tool ... Main finisher is the MK Ultra back-to-belly piledriver and the Helter Skelter hanging triangle choke ... Has also competed in ROH.

pwi500

297 TOGI MAKABE (5'11", 243, 12, 135) The standout heel of New Japan Pro-Wrestling's young generation, the "Unchained Gorilla's" career has recently undergone some strange twists ... Saw his GBH (Great Bash Heel) faction raided by Shinsuke Nakamura, who took all members but Makabe himself and Tomoaki Honma to form CHAOS ... Now an unwilling baby-face, still sporting his chain and fighting rough, Makabe is at war with Nakamura and the men who betrayed him.

298 EL COMANDANTE (6'3", 264, 3, NL) Accepted a challenge from Aaron "The Idol" Stevens and Jose Chapparo to wrestle Stevens at the World Wrestling Council's Hour of Truth event ... Fared poorly, getting in what was essentially an extended squash match ... He previously suffered decisive losses to Ricky Reyes, "Mr. 450" Hammett (John Yurmett), among others ... He has found slightly more success as a member of tag teams than in solo competition ... Despite his modest win-loss record, Comandante is a well-regarded performer.

299 TORU YANO (6'1", 254, 7, 182) A former amateur wrestling great, Yano's aggressive brawling style is a far cry from his university days ... A member of the GBH faction until he betrayed Makabe, joining Shinsuke Nakamura to form CHAOS in New Japan ... Still yet to achieve much as a singles wrestler, his most prolific work coming as a tag wrestler with Makabe ... Finishes opponents with the Oni Koroshi, a scoop-up power bomb.

300 RYAN BRADDOCK (6'4", 248, 10, 216) The former Jay Bradley graduated from WWE's developmental system to the Smackdown roster in August 2008, but never quite established himself on the blue brand ... Took a tough loss to Ricky Ortiz in ECW and suffered the ignominy of being bubble-wrapped and carted off after a loss to Festus ... Was released by WWE in March, which many considered a major surprise ... Two-time OVW champion and three-time Deep South heavyweight champion ... Main finishers are the lariat and Second City Slam.

301 TOMMY THUNDA (6'2", 221, 4, NL) Former W-1 North American champion tends to get himself in trouble with some questionable deci-



Photo by Joe Zanolle

sions and a sick sense of humor ... Currently holds the W-1 tag team championship with Chris Rockwell ... Rulebreaker from San Jose continues to improve and is developing into a formidable competitor ... Major moves include a wicked leg lariat and power slam ... Southpaw surprises opponents with a left cross out of nowhere.

302 GRIZZLY REDWOOD (5'4", 159, 4, NL) "The Littlest Lumberjack" is a former Ring of Honor Top of the Class trophy holder in his previous life as Mitch Franklin ... Scrappy lumberjack has earned a cult following in ROH and CHIKARA ... Developed a mean streak in CHIKARA, forming an alliance with Brodie Lee and Eddie Kingston ... A graduate of the ROH Wrestling Academy ... Signature moves include the double axe handle (naturally), the lariat, and the knife-edge chop.

303 VIN GERARD (5'10", 164, 4, NL) The former Equinox was trained by Chris Hero and Mike Quackenbush ... Had a memorable feud with Fire Ant in CHIKARA in 2008 that saw him win the Young Lions Cup last July ... Formed The UnStable with Shane Storm and former WWE star Colin Delaney in September ... Was stripped of the Young Lions Cup in 2008 and has been unable to win that title back ... Favorite moves are the STF and the 2K1 Bomb, a cross-legged fisherman's brainbuster.

304 CUTE KIP (6'5", 280, 16, 132) Tag team specialist has underachieved since joining The Beautiful People ... Had a violent split from longtime partner B.G. James in spring 2008, then had a brief feud with Matt Morgan ... Highlight of the past year was subbing for Kevin Nash as a default member of the Main Event Mafia at Genesis ... Lowlight was losing an inter-gender stretcher match to Awesome Kong ... Great talent, but his antics (and ring entrances) make him hard to take seriously.

Photo by Robert Beukema



305 HURRICANE CASTILLO JR. (5'10", 215, 23, NL) The son of the legendary Hurricane Castillo Sr. is now himself a grizzled veteran of the mat

game ... A 10-time co-holder of the WWC tag team championship, most recently with Rico Suave as "La Evolucion Hardcore" ... The duo lost the title earlier this year to the prolific Thunder and Lightning ... The rough-and-tumble hardcore stylist can take to the air successfully for his Castillo-rana finisher or a top-rope dropkick.

306 APOC (6'3", 235, 3, NL) The big man from Calgary has been a juggernaut in Ohio Valley Wrestling last year ... Teamed with Vaughn Lilas to win the OVW Southern tag team title, but the partners eventually split and had a nasty feud ... Defeated Lilas to win the OVW heavyweight title in February ... Currently managed by the very sexy Belle Von Black ... Has defended the title against Lilas and Igotta Brewski and currently is feuding with Raul Loco.

307 SILVER KING (5'9", 216, 24, NL) The second heir of the Wagner family returned to AAA to help Joaquin Roldan battle Konnan and the Foreign Legion ... Made a strong tag team with La Parka and won several matches ... Turned on La Parka and joined the Foreign Legion ... Entered into a heated feud with La Parka, which included several brawls and streetfights ... Eliminated in the finals of the Rey de Reyes tournament ... Uses a Dragon Screw as his signature move.

308 DANNY DORING (5'11", 212, 10, 244) The "Dan-aconda" has been collecting championships on the independent circuit, particularly within NWA territories ... He is a two-time NWA-Upstate heavyweight champion and has successfully defended that title against Eric Young, Hellcat, and Pepper Parks, among others ... ECW alumnus has also battled fellow ECW stars Colin Delaney and Stevie Richards ... Main finisher is the

Wham Bam Thank You Ma'am double-underhook DDT ... Graduate of the ECW House of Hardcore training school.

309 BRETT DIBIASE (5'9", 205, 2, NL) The youngest son of the "Million-Dollar Man" Ted DiBiase Sr. currently is competing in Florida Championship Wrestling ... Third-generation competitor has impressed WWE officials and is one of its top young prospects ... Wrestling style is very similar to older brother Ted's, and he also borrows some of his old man's signature moves, such as his fistdrop and Million-Dollar Dream ... Largely competing in tag team matches, alongside Tank Mulligan.

310 NATE WEBB (6'2", 185, 8, NL) Wacky fan favorite loves rocking out and dancing to some "Teenage Dirtbag" ... "Spyder" has been known to execute a moonsault version of the Van Terminator, flipping all the way across the ring and connecting with a dropkick to an opponent in the opposite corner ... Calls this move the Spyder Bite ... Competes for IWA: Mid-South, CZW, and several Midwest promotions and has competed in TNA, ROH, and WSX ... Made the roster of the Indianapolis Mustangs semi-pro football team.

311 TRUITT FIELDS (6'1", 231, 5, 352) Popular NWA-Anarchy competitor was a high school football and wrestling standout before getting into the ring ... Also served in the U.S. Marine Corps ... Was the longest-reigning TV champion in NWA history, holding that title for more than 18 months before dropping the belt to Shaun Tempers in controversial fashion ... Polishes off opponents with a version of the uranage suplex he calls "The Killing Fields" ... Competes throughout the southern NWA promotions ... Feuding with former friend (and Marine Corps platoon-mate) Phil Shatter.

312 PRINCE MUSTAFA ALI (5'10", 180, 6, NL) The controversial Prince Mustafa Ali is a former JAPW light heavyweight champion and competed in the 2008 Ted Petty Invitational tournament and the 2008 Candido Cup tournament ... Was the subject of an independent documentary called *Team Taliban* ... Terrorist sympathizer claims "You live for lies, I die for the truth" ... His inflammatory beliefs shouldn't detract from the fact that he is a superb wrestler and one of the best young high-flyers in the sport today.

29/10/312

PWI 500

313 VAUGHN LILAS (6'1", 230, 3, NL) Two-time former Ohio Valley Wrestling heavy-weight champion has been feuding with his former tag team partner, Apoc ... Lost the OVW title to Apoc in February, thanks to outside interference from Apoc's valet Belle Von Black ... Regained the belt in April, but relinquished it quickly thereafter to Apoc ... Had previously held the OVW Southern tag title with Apoc until the team self-destructed ... Won a 30-man battle royal in January to earn the right to face OVW owner JBL.

314 JIGSAW (6'1", 173, 6, 202) Lanky wrestler returned to CHIKARA last year after a run in Ring of Honor as part of The Vulture Squad ... Reunited with his mentor, Mike Quackenbush, who was slow to accept his former friend at first, but has been welcomed back by Quack and the fans ... Currently serving as mentor to The Future Is Now ... Signature moves include the Jig 'n' Tonic and his Leap of Faith running huracanrana ... Former CZW junior heavyweight champion.

315 JUSHIN "THUNDER" LIGER (5'7", 209, 20, 119) The legendary junior heavyweight of New Japan is currently celebrating his 20th year as the famous masked man ... Tried to decorate his anniversary year by challenging Tiger Mask for the IWGP junior heavyweight championship in February, but wasn't able to win back a title eluding him since 2000 ... Still putting on a great show for fans in Japan, using all of his famous moves.

316 ANDY DOUGLAS (6'1", 220, 9, NL) Former member of The Naturals learned the grass wasn't necessarily greener on the other side of the fence after a disappointing stint with WWE that ended last year ... Three-time former NWA-TNA tag champion currently is competing on the southern indy circuit ... Showed up in SAW to feud with former partner Chase Stevens ... Tag team specialist usually uses a double-underhook piledriver as his singles finishing move.

317 MIKE REED (6', 235, 5, 409) "The Hot Shot" has been chasing the ECWA heavyweight title, but has been unable to upend Chase

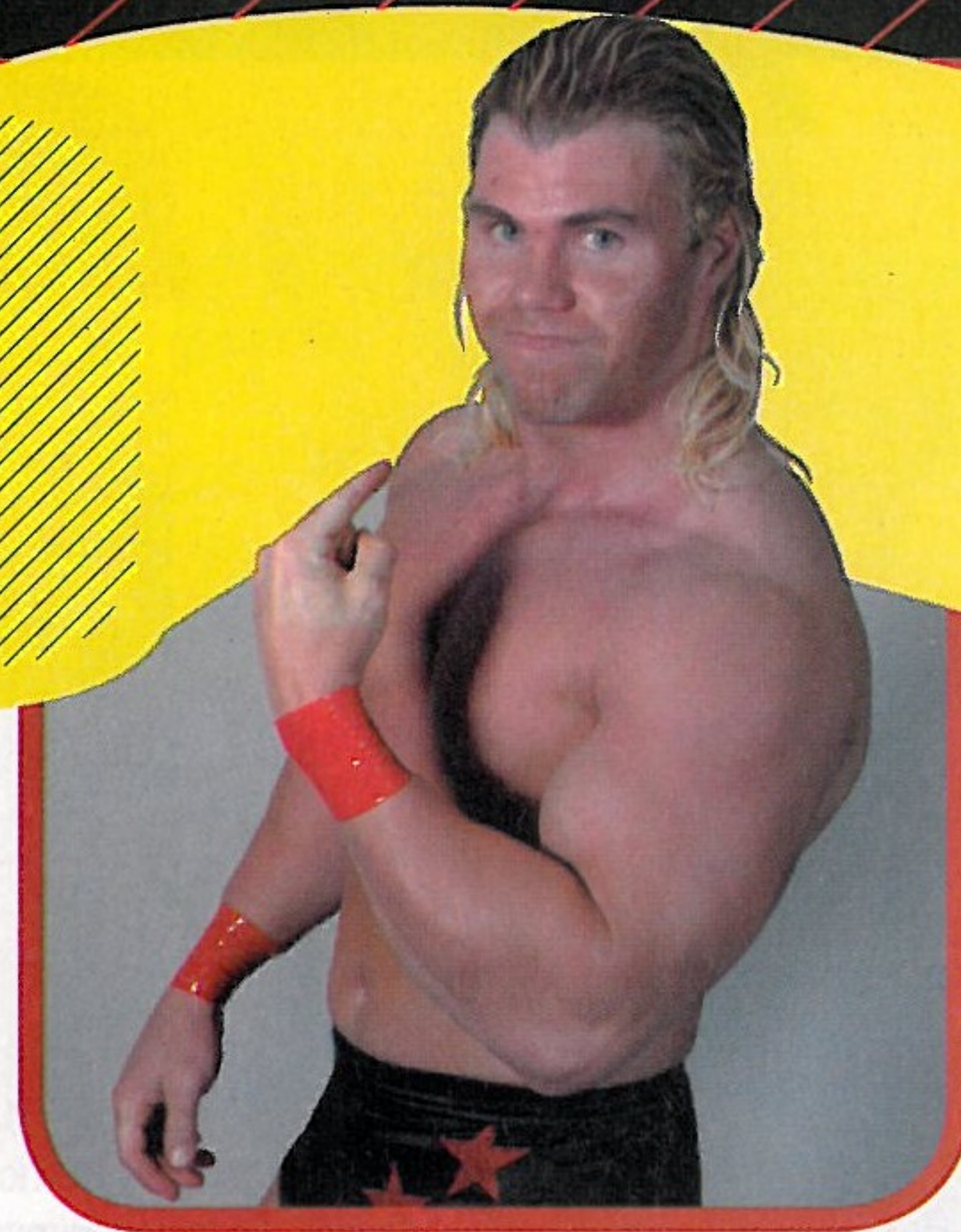


Photo by Joe Zanolle

Del Monte ... Great talker combines size, brute power, technical know-how, and brawling skills ... Teams with J.J. Crew Guy as Leather 'n' Lace, managed by Sebastian Night ... Reigned for five months as ECWA tag champions after winning the belts from the Logan Brothers.

318 KENNY OMEGA (6', 200, 9, NL) Former Deep South wrestler held the Jersey All Pro Wrestling heavyweight title for 11 months, finally dropping the belt to Jay Lethal in February ... Winnipeg native was trained by Vance Nevada ... Cut his teeth in Premier Championship Wrestling before working in JAPW and ROH ... Main finishers include his Aoi Shoudou cross-legged fisherman buster and his Croyt's Wrath, an electric chair into a bridging German suplex, which he sometimes executes from the top rope.

319 DYSFUNCTION (5'11", 221, 9, NL) Bloodthirsty brawler made it to the finals of the 2009 IWA: Mid-South King of the Death Matches go-fest, scoring wins over Viper (in a barbed-wire-canvas-light-bulbs match) and xOMGx (in a home run derby match) before losing in a four-way Ironman death match ... Had a one-day reign as IWA Death Match champion in 2007 ... Main finisher is the superkick, but bludgeoning foes with weapons works, too.

320 J.D. MAVERICK (5'10", 217, 9, 395) The former J.D. Michaels has gone Maverick and formed Top Shelf Talent with Pat Buck in Ohio Valley Wrestling ... Also held the OVW TV title, as well as the OCW heavyweight title and the WCWC heavyweight title ... Heavily influenced by Shawn Michaels, and has been known to use the superkick and elbow drop ... Lucky devil is married to April Hunter.

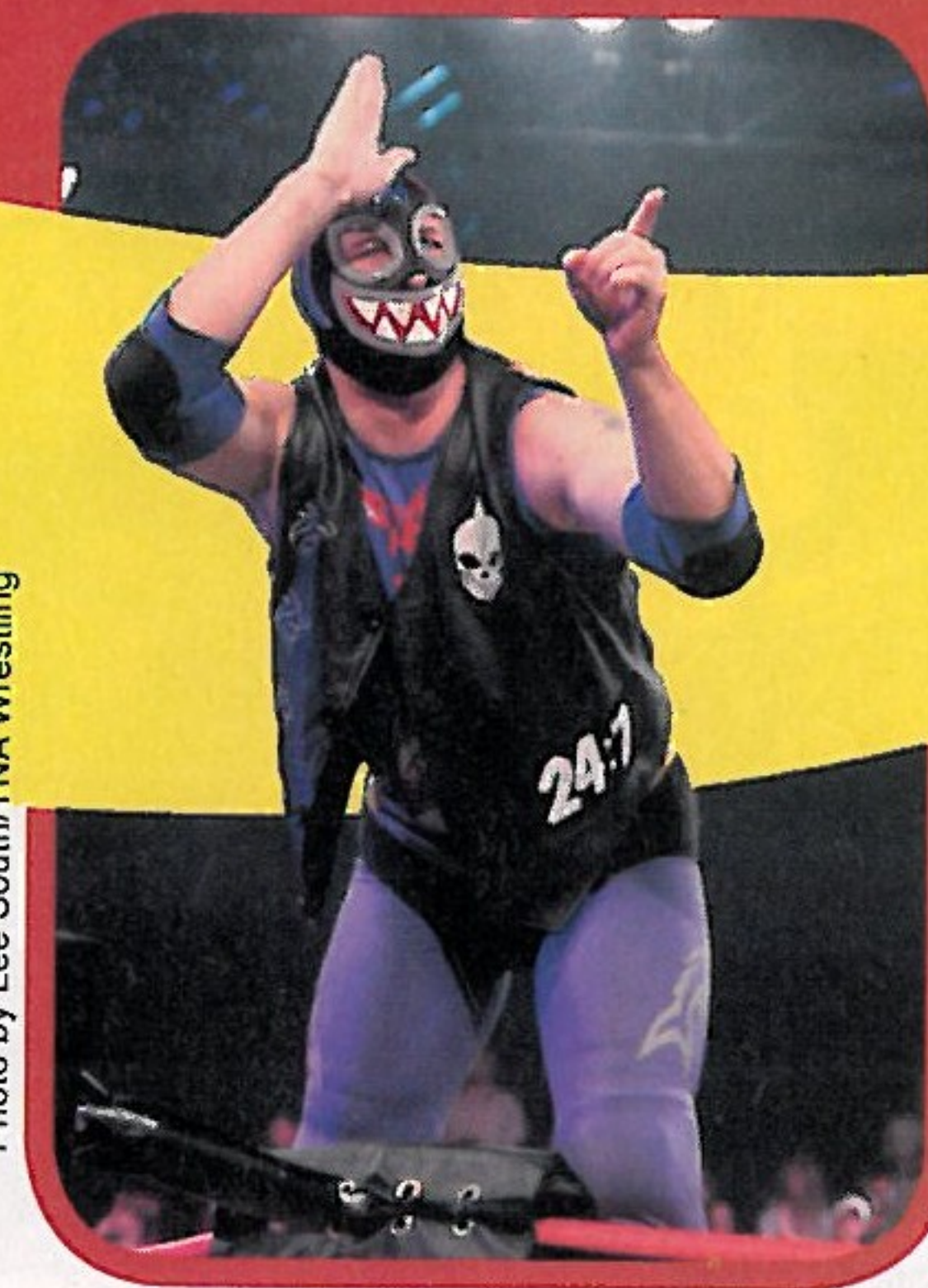


Photo by Lee South/TNA Wrestling

321 SHARK BOY (5'10", 205, 12, 122) Former member of the Prince Justice Brotherhood has floundered in recent months ... TNA star still channels the fishy spirit of Steve Austin and remains a cult favorite ... Has missed time after losing his home to a fire and due to illness ... Favors his Stone-Cold Chummer or his Deep Sea Drop as his methods of making opponents sleep with the fishes ... Occasionally managed by "Shark Girl" Daffney on the indy circuit.

322 MAHONEY (6'2", 305, 12, 243) The ECW Original is competing in Puerto Rico's WWC ... Faced old rival Abdullah the Butcher in what was billed as Abdullah's final WWC bout in December ... Was released by WWE in April 2008 ... Appeared backstage on TNA Impact in April, where he and Spike Dudley offered some words of wisdom to Team 3-D ... Style may be ugly, but he's as hardcore as they come ... Finishers are the spinebuster and piledriver.

323 KING V (6'9", 485, 16, 154) The former Big Daddy V is now competing for the NWA as King V, a thinly veiled reference to his 1995 King of the Ring victory ... Massive man was a juggernaut in ECW in 2008, but was moved to the Smackdown brand, then released due to health issues ... Has been earning good reviews for several acting roles in upcoming films ... Continues to use his massive girth to his advantage with an array of slams, splashes, and elbowdrops.

324 RIC CONVERSE (6'2", 225, 10, 428) "1st" is a former AWA heavyweight champion, holding that title for more than seven months in 2006-07 ... Held the CWF Mid-Atlantic heavyweight title ... Angered fans by mocking popular retired star The Kamikaze Kid, then attacking a cameraman earlier this year ... Has

scored wins over former WWE stars Heidenreich and Aaron Aguilar ... Main finishing move is the Ric-Tor Scale, an inverted scoop slam piledriver.

325 BRAD ATTITUDE (6'3", 232, 7, NL) North Carolina native broke into wrestling in 2002, competing in CWF Mid-Atlantic ... Arrogant to a fault (though that's to be expected with a last name like Attitude), he was signed to a WWE developmental contract and changed his name to "The Campus Legend" Brad Allen ... Twice held the FCW tag team title with Nic Nemeth ... Competed in the 2008 Jeff Peterson Memorial Cup tournament in September ... Finisher is The Attitude Adjustment.

326 DAL KNOX (5'11", 205, 5, NL) Popular competitor recently won an online poll as the number-one wrestler in New Zealand ... He is the reigning IPW New Zealand heavyweight champion and has held that title on two occasions ... Won the Armageddon Cup championship in 2005 ... Signature moves include his Surf Highway jumping leg lariat, his Fort Knox inverted sharpshooter, and his spinning Knox Out airplane spin fall-away slam.

327 MIKE KRUEL (5'10", 215, 8, 363) Second-generation wrestler is one of the most underrated talents on the independent circuit ... The son of former wrestler Bodyguard for Hire combines brute strength with terrific mat wrestling and a deep repertoire of chokes and submission locks ... Had competed in OVW (where he held both the heavyweight and TV title) and FCW before being released by WWE in January ... Has made numerous appearances on WWE TV and held several titles across the East Coast.

328 CHASE STEVENS (6', 220, 11, NL) Former Golden Gloves champion made a few WWE appearances but never rose above the preliminary level, despite being a three-time TNA tag team champion (with Andy Douglas) ... Currently competing on the southeastern independent circuit, where he is feuding with Douglas ... Primary finishing move these days is either the Death Valley driver or the shooting star press ... Trained by Tracey Smothers and has been managed by both Chris Candido and Shane Douglas.

313 TO 328

pwi500

329 SUPER HENTAI (5'5", 160, 11, 284) The high-flying luchador by way of Pittsburgh is a mainstay in the International Wrestling Cartel ... Former Super Indy champion has pinfall victories over Christopher Daniels, C.M. Punk, and Jerry Lynn under his belt and is considered one of the best pound-for-pound wrestlers on the indy scene ... Main finishing move is the Full Moon-Plex, a rolling Northern Lights suplex ... Also has a very effective set of moves from the top rope, including a double-kneemash dubbed Howling Fury.

330 SEAN WALTMAN (6'1", 212, 17, 389) Is a regular in Mexico's AAA promotion ... Turned against former partners the Foreign Legion and created DeGeneration Mex with Alex Koslov and Rocky Romero ... Has been feuding with El Zorro and Konnan ... Seems to have kicked many of his personal demons and has become a top star south of the border ... Doesn't seem to have slowed, despite nearly two decades in the sport.

331 ARIK CANNON (5'8", 215, 8, 342) "The Anarchist" currently is gearing up for one of the biggest matches of his life as he is scheduled to face Terry Funk in an extreme rules match in September, with Ric Flair officiating ... Defeated Krotch to win the AAW heritage title ... Teamed with the North Star Express to compete in the 2009 CHIKARA King of Trios tourney ... Scored big wins over Jerry Lynn and El Generico this year ... Finisher is the Glimmering Warlock shining enzuigiri.

332 THUNDER (5'10", 250, 9, 330) One-half of the most successful tag team in Puerto Rico over the past decade, Thunder is a 19-time co-holder of the WWC tag team championship and six-time IWA tag team champion along with his partner Lightning ... Thunder performs the finishing half of the duo's signature flapjack/cutter combination and uses a fireman's carry facebuster as a setup move ... The masked duo unseated La Evolucion Hardcore (Huracan Castillo Jr. and Rico Suave) to capture their most recent WWC tag titles.

333 PAT BUCK (6', 225, 8, NL) Three-time OVV Southern tag champion currently holds that title with Top Shelf Talent partner, J.D. Maverick ...

Has also held the belts with Rob Conway ... Trained under Mikey Whipwreck and competed throughout New England before relocating to Louisville ... Has a martial arts background, which is apparent in his strikes, kicks, and knee combos ... Calls his unique martial arts style "Buck Fu" ... Singles finisher is the Buck Shot roundhouse kick to the head.

334 THE ATOMIC DOGG (6'3", 275, 11, 334) The big dog is the reigning Mid-South Wrestling International heavyweight champion ... Has feuded against General Skandor Akbar's army, scoring wins over Tim Storm and Prince Al Farat ... Old-school fan favorite always wears his dog collar and chains ... Trained in WCW's Power Plant and became the first champion in Harley Race's WLW promotion ... Calls his finishing move The Dogg Catcher ... Uses a variety of sidewalk slams, press slams, and side suplexes to incapacitate foes.

335 LIGHTNING (6'1", 230, 9, 335) Along with longtime partner Thunder, the masked Lightning has dominated the Puerto Rican tag team wrestling scene for most of the current decade ... The 19-time co-holder of the WWC tag team championship and six-time IWA tag titlist has had more success than his partner when it comes to singles competition ... Lightning has held both the WWC Universal heavyweight championship and the IWA heavyweight championship ... He uses a chokeslam as a setup move for his tag team's signature finishing move.

336 "JAG" HARTLEY JACKSON (6'1", 230, 11, NL) Based in Australia, "Jag" Hartley Jackson has also competed in the United States and Japan ... Trained in the Inoki dojo in California in 2005, which led to a bout in New Japan ... Was previously known as the "Extreme High-Flier" for his reckless and exciting aerial attacks and dives ... Has adopted a more ground-based attack in recent years ... Former PWSA hardcore champion and NWA-Australia heavyweight champion ... Finisher is The Jagged Edge.

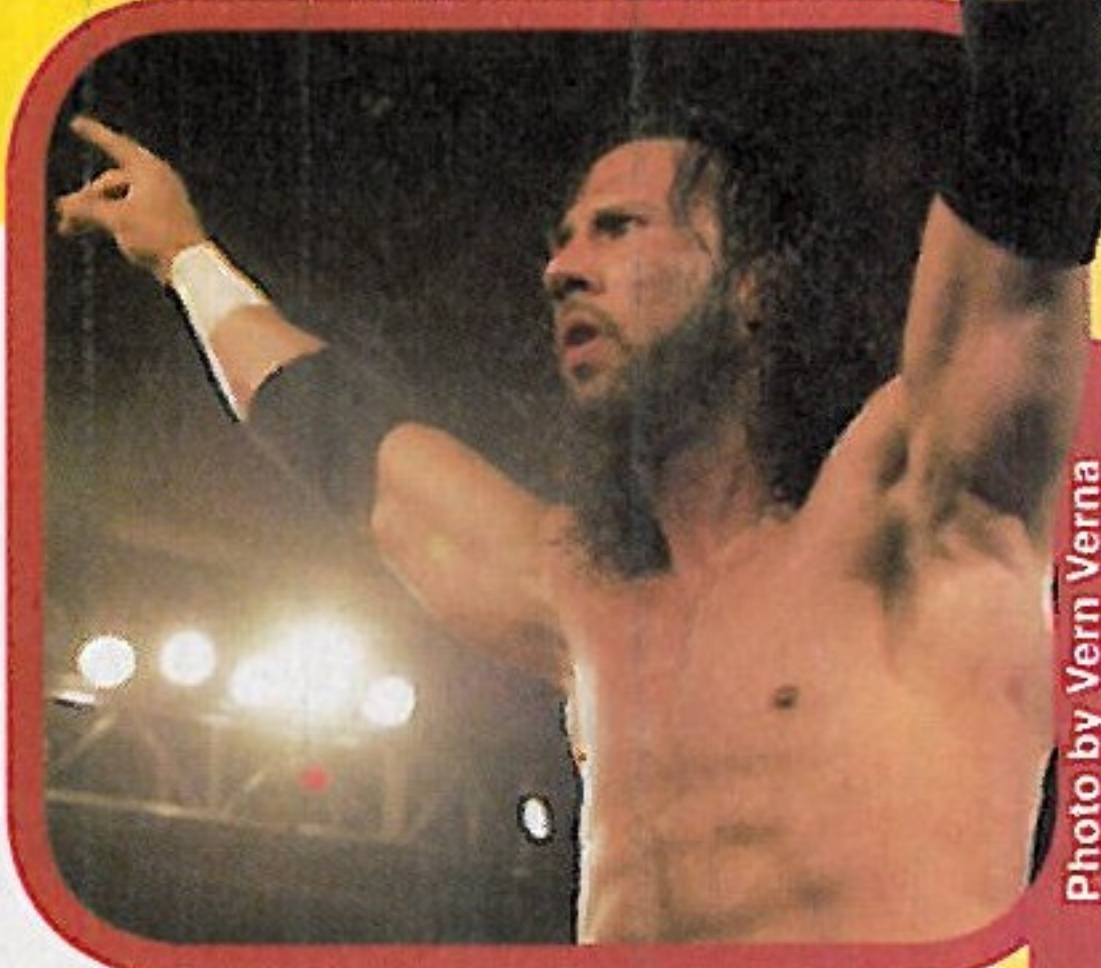


Photo by Vern Verna

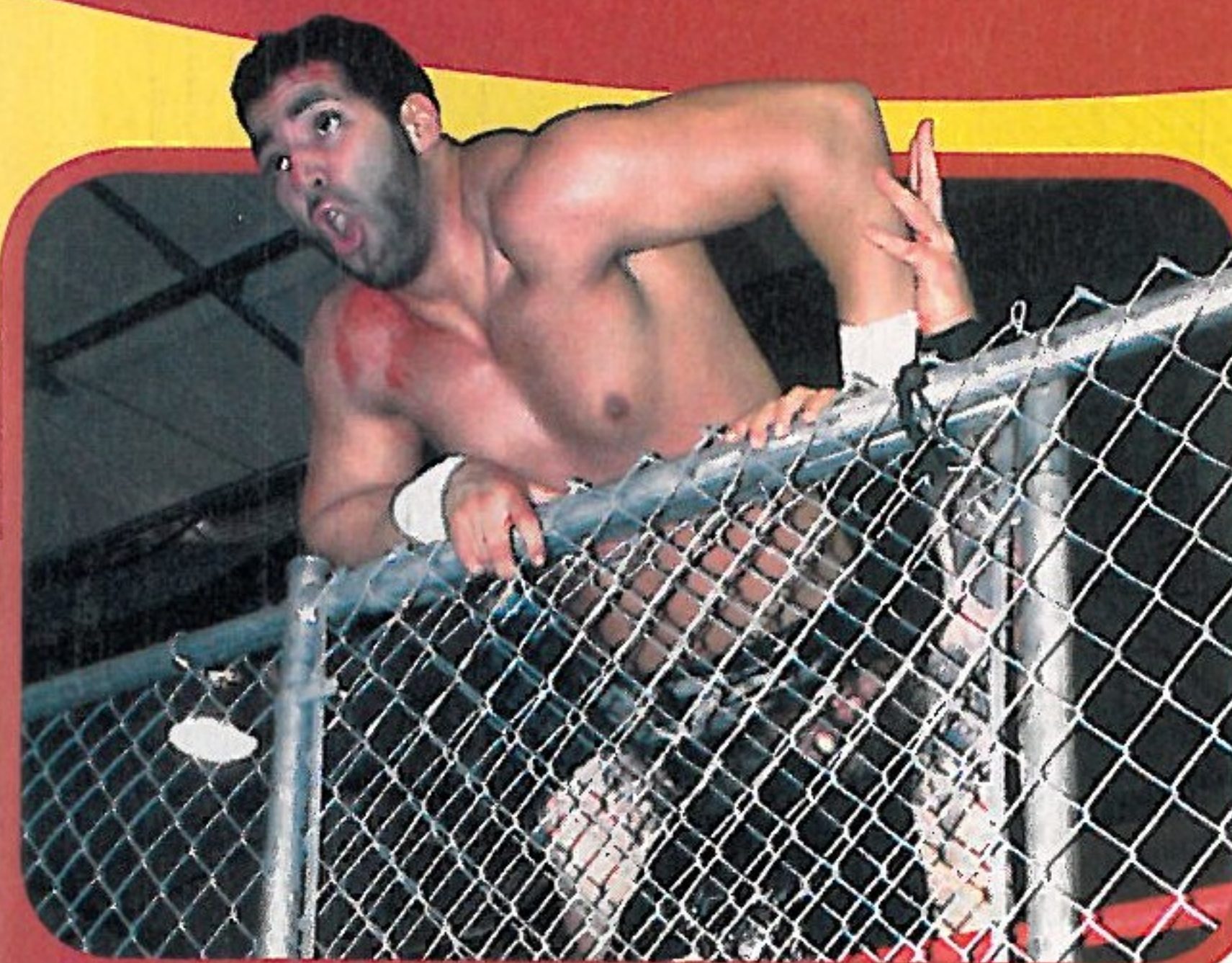


Photo by Timothy Walker

337 YOSHINOBU KANEMARU (5'8", 187, 13, 174) One of Pro Wrestling NOAH's most decorated juniors, Kanemaru's fourth reign as GHC junior heavyweight champion was ended by Bryan Danielson last September ... Has held the GHC junior tag team championship with Kotaro Suzuki, for almost a year ... A member of the DISOBEY faction, NOAH's main heel force, where he causes trouble with Suzuki, Takeshi Rikio, Mohammed Yone, and Genba Hirayanagi.

338 KAHAGAS (5'11", 215, 11, 373) The "Tokyo Monster" has expanded his horizons beyond his Florida base, competing throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico, and Central America ... Participated in the 2008 NECW Iron 8 tournament ... Currently holds the High Voltage Wrestling Midwest Livewire title and the CCW Southeastern title ... Calls his finisher the Me Stiff You ... Faced Scott Hall, Honky Tonk Man, Blue Demon Jr., and Tomko over the past 12 months ... Often managed by Rico Casanova.

339 TANK TOLAND (5'8", 234, 9, 304) The former OVV champion has made a few appearances in Ring of Honor, where he became Larry Sweeney's personal trainer ... Still trying to live down his regrettable WWE run as "James Dick" in 2005 ... Signature moves include the Power Trip one-armed spinebuster and the Tank Turret discus double-ax handle, which is guaranteed to knock the wind out of any opponent ... Still active on the Midwest independent circuit.

340 MAVERICK DARSOW (6', 180, 1, NL) The son of Barry "Repo Man/ Demolition Smash" Darsow was unexpectedly released from his WWE developmental contract in June ... Had been considered one of the young lions of Florida Championship Wrestling ... Played linebacker for the University of

Minnesota-Crookston prior to relocating to FCW ... Tag team specialist favors a variety of wristlocks and armbar submission locks he learned from his father ... Singles win over D.H. Smith in March was a career highlight.

341 BXB HULK (5'10", 172, 4, 392) A member of the World-1 faction in Dragon Gate, BxB Hulk's young looks and vibrant charisma make him popular with women ... Has a darker alter ego called Killer Hulk, which he revived this past May to defeat Yamato ... Has a cool dance routine before each match ... Shows the potential to be a leading figure in Dragon Gate, but still struggling to become a bona fide main-eventer.

342 TIM DONST (5'10", 187, 2, 488) Former amateur wrestling standout is the reigning EPIC WAR heavyweight champion ... Graduated from the CHIKARA Wrestle Factory in 2007 and absorbed a number of violent beatings ... Turned heel last year after suffering a concussion and joined the Order of the Neo-Solar Temple, but then revealed he was actually a mole, infiltrating the nefarious group for the purposes of good ... Popular technico teams with Hydra as The Sea Donsters ... Main finisher is the Donstitution, a fireman's carry slam into a cradle pin.

343 DAMIEN SLATER (5'11", 190, 6, NL) Australian standout was trained by Col. Dervany and Hartley Jackson, who were impressed by his natural wrestling ability ... Technical wrestler with a strong counter-wrestling game and a variety of efficient take-downs and submission holds ... Former JPW cruiserweight champion ... Calls his finishing move the Bible Basher, which is a reverse cradle driver ... Also utilizes the Holier Than Thou diamond dust and the cobra clutch neckbreaker.

344 JALIL SALAAM (6', 215, 5, NL) "The Lebanese Prince" competes in Northeast Wrestling, though the fans probably wouldn't mind seeing him go back to Beirut ... Vocally anti-American competitor uses the camel clutch as his main finishing move ... Claims his mission to be beat down every American he can ... Feuded with Jerry Lawler in 2008 ... Attacks opponents before the opening bell, often choking them with his turban ... Wrestled on a ROH pre-show in May, introducing him to a new audience.

329 TO 344

PWI 500

345 OBIE CARTEL (5'10", 195, 6, NL) Former PWA Queensland International heavy-weight champion may well be the only competitor on this year's "PWI 500" who actually went undefeated for an entire year ... Of course, Cartel often relied upon interference from manager Mark Williamson to protect his precious title, though he is capable of beating most opponents on his own ... Also a former MIW South Pacific champion and XSE Australian champion ... Primary finishing move is the Destroyer.

346 MICHAEL ELGIN (5'10", 235, 5, NL) Oshawa, Ontario, native has been competing throughout the province and in several Midwest promotions, including IWA: Mid-South, where he has held the Strong Style championship ... Known as "Mr. Canadian Crazy Horse," he was trained by Rob Fuego ... Notable opponents include Johnny Devine, Trevor Murdoch, and Tyson Dux ... Has a reputation for a stiff, physical style ... Known for his flying shoulderblock and his Ground 'n' Pound finisher.

347 FLASH FLANAGAN (6'2", 235, 17, NL) Former OVW champion has returned to his roots ... Became the XCW Midwest champion by beating Buddy Landell ... Also busy challenging Shawn Cook for the NWA-Indiana title ... Was under WWE developmental contract from 2000-2003 and trained with John Cena, Randy Orton, and Batista ... Career highlight was a pinfall win over Chris Jericho in 2001 ... Competed in Puerto Rico as Slash Venom and had a brief run in TNA ... A mainstay on the Tennessee independent circuit.

348 MAX BAUER (6'5", 271, 5, 346) Also competes as Max Von Bauer ... The reigning New England Championship Wrestling Triple Crown champion and has been the top fan favorite in the promotion for the past year ... Became undisputed Triple Crown champion by beating Rick Fuller and Antonio Thomas in a three-way match in April ... Three-time Chaotic Wrestling tag team champion ... Powerful and popular, Bauer puts foes away with his Bauer Bomb fireman's carry slam and spinebuster.

349 BOBBY DEMPSEY (5'9", 282, 4, 375) The pudgy, poofy-haired whipping boy from Sweet 'n' Sour Inc. has had some

big moments this year, including a win over former NWA champion Adam Pearce ... Wrestled Kamala to a no-contest at SuperCard of Honor IV ... Developed into a crowd favorite, despite his association with Larry Sweeney's crew ... Long abused by Sweeney, he is starting to throw his weight around with his version of the Vader bomb ... Finisher of choice is a Death Valley driver.

350 ETHAN PAGE (6'2", 222, 2, NL) "The Motion Picture" has competed in PWR, IWA: Mid-South, and CHIKARA among other promotions ... Competed in the 2008 CHIKARA Young Lions Cup tournament ... Teams with Joey Kings as Beauty and the Beast with manager Mr. Melo ... Was named 2007's Ontario Newcomer of the Year in a fan poll ... Has held the PWR Riot, EWLA Extreme, PAP Adrenaline, and LLWA tag titles ... Boasts a terrific gorilla press Death Valley driver.

351 JOE LIDER (5'9", 179, 16, NL) The founder of the 187 tag team is one-half of the most violent and hardcore tandems in AAA ... With Nicho el Millonario, he formed La Hermandad Extrema and won the AAA tag team title from Extreme Tiger and Halloween ... Feuded with The Hart Foundation 2.0 and successfully defended the title ... Joined Konnan's Foreign Legion and began attacking AAA wrestlers at random ... Currently involved in an intense feud with Marco Corleone and Latin Lover over the tag belts ... Uses the Spanish Fly as his finisher.

352 2 DOPE (5'11", 210, 11, 360) Longtime Maryland competitor is a six-time Maryland Championship Wrestling tag team champion ... Teams with Qeenan Creed as The Ghetto Mafia ... Singles finishing move is the Sky High, but uses a spike piledriver with Creed called the Ka Krusher ... Has wrestled in tough matches against The Voodoo Kin Mafia and Team 3-D ... The Ghetto Mafia may be one of the most underrated tandems in the sport today.



Photo by Joe Zandolle

Photo by Duane Long



353 VICTOR JOVICA (5'10", 215, 43, NL) The Croatia-born veteran has long made his permanent home in Puerto Rico, where he and Carlos Colon operate the World Wrestling Council while engaging in a storyline feud ... The former NWA heavyweight champion—though not officially recognized in the U.S.—still appears in WWC as a special attraction and performs on-air storyline duties as WWC president ... Despite his advanced age, he often emerges victorious by underhanded means on the occasions he steps into the ring.

354 STEVE BOZ (5'11", 220, 16, NL) Chicago native has competed throughout the Midwest, as well as the Mid-South and USWA ... Currently holds the WAR (Illinois) heavyweight title ... Known as "The Superstar" or simply as "The B-O-Z" ... Suffered a separated shoulder at the end of 2008, forcing him to miss two months, but hasn't missed a step since his return ... Feuded with Christopher Daniels way back in 1994 over the Windy City lightweight title ... Finishers are the Bozinoku driver and the tornado front kick.

355 AMASIS (5'9", 179, 2, NL) Mysterious member of The Osirian Portal claims to hail from Egypt ... Currently holds the CHIKARA tag team title along with Ophidian ... Graduated from the CHIKARA Wrestle Factory, where he was trained by Mike Quackenbush and Claudio Castagnoli ... Tag team finisher is called The Osirian Sacrament, which sees Amasis execute a flying splash as Ophidian hits a guillotine legdrop ... Stuns foes with a breathtaking 450 splash and a double-chickenwing facebuster.

356 T.J. PERKINS (5'9", 172, 9, 239) Pro Wrestling Guerilla competitor may be better known nationally as his masked alter-ego, Puma ... Style is heavily influenced by both Lucha Libre and Japanese puroresu styles, and actually represented Mexico in TNA's 2006 World X Cup tournament ... Has also used the nickname Pinoy Boy ... Main finishers

include the 450 splash and the tombstone piledriver ... Wrestled a classic match against Bryan Danielson in the 2008 Battle of Los Angeles tournament.

357 OPHIDIAN (5'7", 170, 2, NL) Not only does Ophidian dress up like an Egyptian asp, but his tag team partner has actually been known to charm him to hypnotize opposing teams ... One-half of The Osirian Portal alongside Amasis ... He and Amasis won the CHIKARA "Campeon De Parejas" title with a win over the Super Smash Brothers in October 2008 ... Uses an "Egyptian Destroyer" flipping piledriver, as well as a variety of knee strikes ... Has also been known to bite, but he's not venomous.

358 QEENAN CREED (5'10", 205, 10, 369) Maryland mainstay is the reigning MCW Rage TV champion ... Defeated the massive Cobian to win that title in April ... Creed teams with 2 Dope as The Ghetto Mafia and is a two-time former MCW tag team champion ... Has also held the MCW cruiserweight title on two occasions ... Won the second annual Shane Shamrock Memorial Cup tournament in 2000 ... High-risk and high-energy competitor is popular with the fans ... Singles finishing move is the frog splash.

359 THE BOOGEYMAN (6'2", 255, 5, NL) The lunatic from "The Bottomless Pit" has vanished into "Parts Unknown" ... Returned to action from a torn calf muscle in December 2008 ... Made non-wrestling appearances with D-X, the crew from Jackass, and dancing with Kung Funaki ... Teamed with Finlay to challenge The Miz and Morrison for the WWE World tag title, but fell short ... Was released by WWE in March ... Powerful and unorthodox (if injury-prone), he could make an impact on the independent scene.

360 THE BRUISER (6'3", 320, 11, 310) Maryland Championship Wrestling brawler lives up to his name with his stiff offense ... Five-time former MCW heavyweight champion and four-time MCW tag team champion ... Scored a big win over Stevie Richards in just 36 seconds in April ... Also collected a win over Mahoney and scored a DQ win in a six-man tag pitting Bruiser, Creed, and Sideswype against Corporal Punishment, Adam Flash, and Kevin Nash ... Favorite move is a heavy legdrop off the second rope.

345 TO 360

PWI 500



Photo by Shane M. Kidder/NWA

361 MASON CHILDS (6', 198, 7, NL)

PWA Queensland star is considered one of the top wrestlers in Australia ... Hails from "The Fighting Suburbs Of Carina Heights" ... Previously held the PWA International championship, a title he won in a tournament final over Chris Hero ... Has also held the MIW heavyweight and cruiserweight titles ... Signature move is the Millennium Driver, which he often sets up with a dragon necklock ... Currently heads a faction known as The Brotherhood, along with Mark Davis and Sorrow.

362 LA MASCARA (5'9", 187, 9, 238)

Spent the early part of this year teamed with his cousin, Maximo ... Joined Hector Garza's stable Angeles del Aire ... Won the CMLL trios title with Hector Garza and Hijo del Fantasma ... Lost the title to the Guerreros de la Atlantida, but regained them a few months later ... Started a feud with Sangre Azteca and his Poder Mexica stable ... Frequently teams with Mistico ... Uses a move called La Campana to win his matches.

363 KEITH WALKER (6'2", 285, 6, NL)

Mohawked behemoth has held the NWA tag team title with partner Rasche Brown since October 2008 when the two beat Los Luchas for the belts ... Feuded with Brown in some extremely physical battles throughout the Midwest until the two musclemen achieved a level of mutual respect ... Has competed for Pro Wrestling NOAH and was under a WWE developmental contract, but was released ... Defeated Ricky Landell to win the Wrestling Superstars Live heavyweight title in February.

364 MADMAN PONDO (5'10", 240, 20, 279)

The hardcore hero from "The Realm Of Pain" is a former JCW heavyweight champion and IWA: Mid-South tag team champion ... His specialty match is the ghastly Four Corners of Pain match, where the ring is surrounded by pits of broken glass, barbed wire, mousetraps, and thumbtacks ... Defeated Nate Webb in a Bed-of-Nails-and-Anything-with-Nails-on-Them match in the 2009 King of the Deathmatch tournament, but was ousted in the second round by Thumbtack Jack.

365 VAL VENIS (6'2", 227, 14, 318)

One of WWE's longest-tenured performers was handed his pink slip in January ... The former I-C champion had been virtually invisible in WWE for the past few years, but regularly worked dark matches and remained a popular personality ... Currently touring with New Japan Pro-Wrestling where he suffered a loss to Hiroshi Tanahashi ... The would-be adult film star helped usher in WWE's Attitude Era ... Still uses his Big Package cradle suplex.

366 NICKY BENZ (5'10", 198, 12, NL)

The former Nick Berk went Hollywood, changed his name to Nicky Benz, and became the agent for Necro Butcher, following Necro's star turn in *The Wrestler* ... Philadelphia native is a former CZW heavyweight and Ironman champion and a two-time JAPW light heavyweight champion ... Known as "The Midnight Idol" ... Also competes for NWA-Force One, where he holds the Iron League championship ... Beat Diego DeMarco in a falls-count-anywhere bout to win that title.

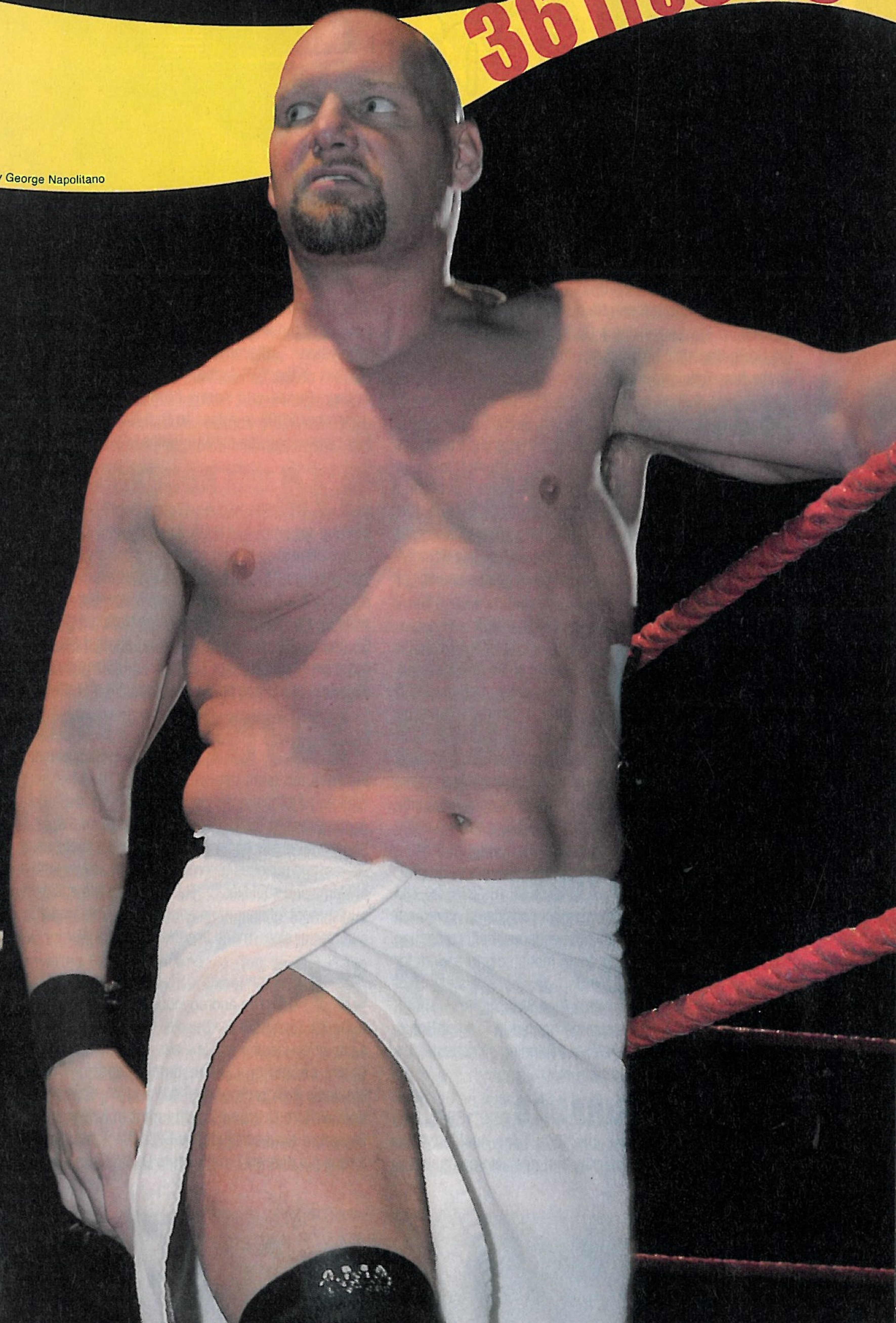
367 KAFU (6'4", 241, 7, 379)

"The Brazilian Beast" had been competing in FCW but was released from his WWE developmental contract in June ... Appeared on WWE TV in losses to Big Daddy V and The Highlanders ... Has toured extensively, competing in Puerto Rico, Mexico, and Portugal ... Is a two-time former All Pro Wrestling heavyweight champion ... Primary finishing move is the Brazilian Crucifix power bomb, which he sets up with a vicious spinning roundhouse kick ... Intimidating striker.

368 ALEX ARION (5'7", 205, 12, NL)

"The Golden Greek" is one of the most hated competitors in New England ... A former NECW heavyweight champion, he has been the top heel in the promotion for the past year ... Trained by Al Snow and Steve Bradley at Bodyslammers Wrestling Gym ... Won the 2008 NECW Iron 8 tournament and the 2008 Toxic Waltz tournament ... Also held the Chaotic heavyweight and New England titles ... Often uses a reverse double-jump bodypress as his finisher.

Photo by George Napolitano



361 to 368

pwi500

369 CHEECH (6', 185, 5, NL) Laid back competitor has been competing all over the Northeast ... Got his start in Ring of Honor as a part of the Special K faction and now frequently teams with Up in Smoke partner Cloudy as well as Brodie Lee ... Loves to clown around in the ring, but can be quite dangerous when he's focused ... Currently using a Go To Sleep variation he calls the Go To Cheech ... Has competed in CZW, CHIKARA, and on the New York indy circuit.

370 FALAH (6'2", 340, 4, NL) "The Samoan Mastodon" has emerged as a big, nasty, and dangerous threat in the Northeast ... Formerly known as Franciz, the big man returned to his native Isle of Samoa and adopted a new, more savage persona ... Holds the AWESOME wrestling heavyweight title ... Also challenged Chase Del Monte for the ECWA heavyweight title in a Samoan strap match in April, but failed to win that championship ... Managed by Liz Savage.

371 LANCE CADE (6'5", 253, 10, 80) The raw-boned Texan seemed to be on his way to the big time in WWE when he was released in October 2008 after suffering a seizure on an airplane ... Scored a pinfall on *Raw* over his mentor, Shawn Michaels, in a handicap match pitting Cade, Chris Jericho, and JBL against Michaels and Batista ... Michaels got revenge in a no-DQ match two weeks later ... Reformed his team with Trevor Murdoch on the indy circuit ... Had success in Japan's HUSTLE, including a win over sumo great Akebono in February.

372 DAVID YOUNG (6', 246, 20, NL) Former TNA competitor considered retirement but has found new life on the independent circuit, competing mainly in SAW ... Has been doing motion capture work for the *Raw vs. Smackdown* video game ... Was part of Diamonds In the Rough with Elix Skipper and Simon Diamond in TNA and has also competed in Ring of Honor, AAA, and ZERO1 ... Known for his spinning spinebuster, his whip blast slam, and his brainbuster.

373 SAL RINAURO (5'9" 185, 7, 385) Wrestling's only "Two-Time Rookie Of The Year" is based in NWA-Anarchy, but has also competed in



Photo by Shane M. Kidder/NWA

ROH, FIP, NWA-Wildside, and elsewhere ... Earned the two-time rookie honors in NWA-Wildside and brags about it everywhere ... Claims he comes from "Hollywood, Salifornia" ... Part of the YRR faction in Full Impact Pro, along with Chasyn Rance and Kenny King ... Appeared in ECW in November 2008 in a loss to D.J. Gabriel ... Held the FIP Florida Heritage title for 11 months in 2007-2008.

374 ACE ROCKWELL (6', 212, 9, NL) The "Seven-Figure Deal" is one of the most popular wrestlers in NWA-Anarchy and is the only triple crown champion in that company's history, having held the heavyweight, TV, and tag titles ... Outlasted six other NWA-Anarchy stars to win a Lucky 7 Mega Rumble in March, which earned him a shot at NWA National champion Phil Shatter ... Wrestled a classic bout against Shatter in April, but was unable to take the title ... Utilizes an unorthodox style that combines pure wrestling with streetfighting.

375 RASCHE BROWN (6'4", 310, 5, NL) "The Skullkrusher" holds the NWA tag team title with partner "The Massacre" Keith Walker ... Massive tandem from the Midwest has drawn comparisons to The Road Warriors and Team 3-D ... Bruising brawler pummels opponents with forearm shots, harsh thrust strikes, and punches before putting them away with a variety of slams and suplexes ... Has an incredible ability to absorb punishment, often jumping right back to his feet after taking a suplex or slam, much like the late Road Warrior Hawk.

376 SHIIMA XION (5'8", 160, 5, 381) The androgynous Xion is wrestling's answer to Derek Zoolander ... Despite his pretty boy looks, Xion is a standout wrestler and is a two-time International Wrestling Cartel champion ... Currently preparing for a tour of Mexico's AAA promotion ... Won IWA: East Coast's third annual Zero G Crown Tournament in November 2008 ... Signature moves include the Bible Black running knees into a rana pin and the From Lust to Dust snapmare driver.

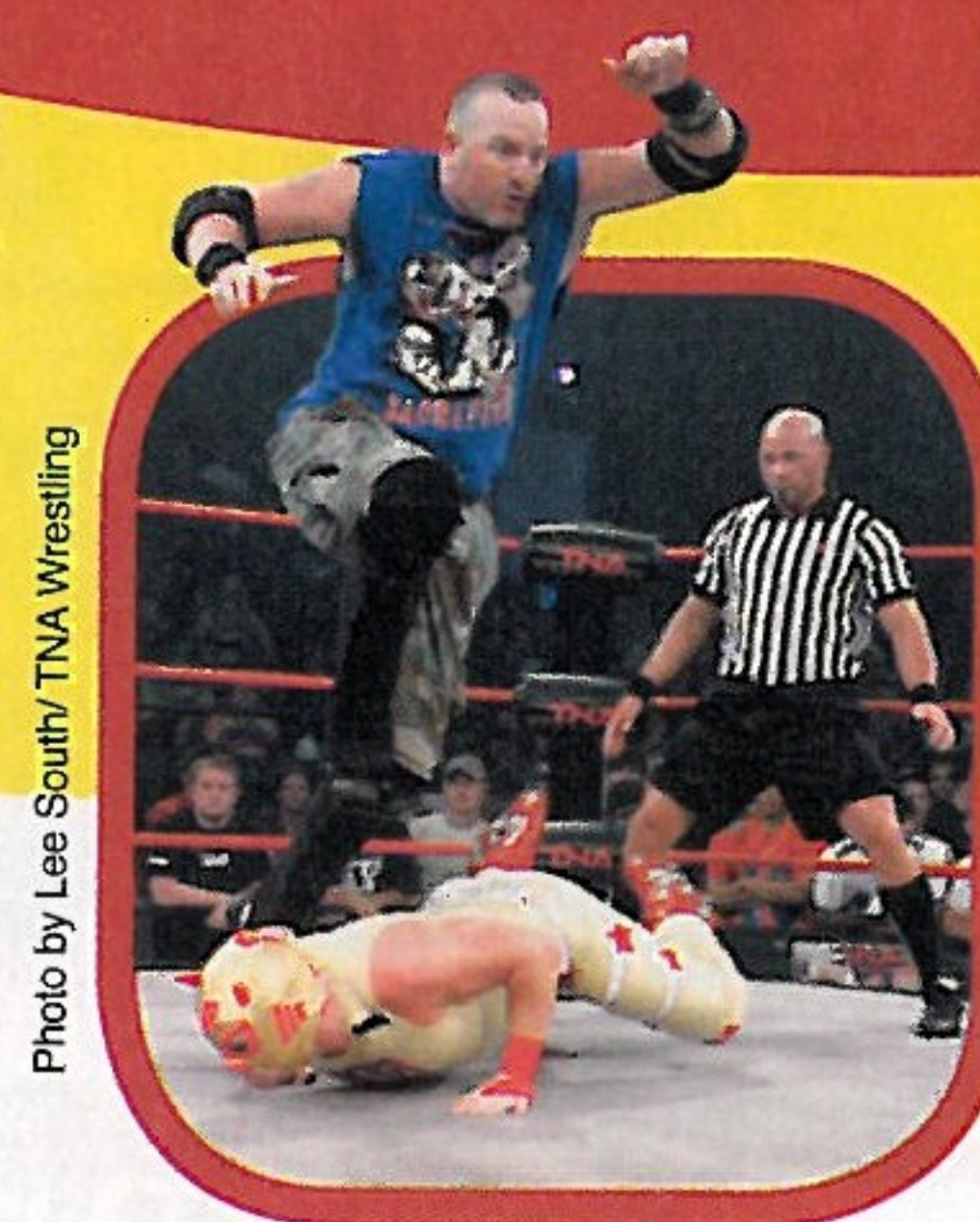


Photo by Lee South/TNA Wrestling

377 SABIAN (5'6", 165, 9, NL) Philadelphia native goes by the nickname "The Black Jesus" ... High-flyer is one of the most decorated cruiserweights on the indy circuit, having held cruiserweight championships in several promotions, including CZW and UWA Hardcore ... Has also held tag team championships with Joker, Eddie Kingston, and Robbie Merino ... Struggled in some very entertaining intergender matches against LuFisto in CZW this year ... Uses a lethal backdrop suplex, sometimes followed by a double stomp off the top rope.

378 CHASYN RANCE (5'9", 189, 10, 402) "Not Cocky" spent much of the past year defending the AWA tag belts with Mister Saint Laurent ... Teamed with Larry Zbyszko and Seth Springer to become AWA six-man tag champs ... Beat Aaron Epic for the SCW Florida heavyweight title and Southern light heavyweight title, despite competing with a broken toe ... Wrestled in both ROH and FIP and feuded with Roderick Strong and Erick Stevens ... So Cal Val frequently serves as valet.

379 ASYLUM (6'1", 237, 9, NL) One-half of The Flatliners with Matt Burns, a team which was named Ontario Tag Team of the Year in 2007 and 2008 ... Toronto native has competed in Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and Korea ... Powerful man batters opponents with a variety of suplexes, slams, and innovative tag team moves, including a double gut-buster into an inverted Burning Hammer ... Tag finisher is the Death From Above, a 3-D variation into a DDT.

380 CLOUDY (5'5", 148, 6, NL) Frequent tag team partner of Cheech also sometimes adopts the persona of "The Little Rig" when teaming with Brodie "Big Rig" Lee ... Got his start in Ring of Honor as part of Special K ... Small in stature but extremely quick on his feet ... Signature moves include the Yoshi Tonic and his corkscrew tope ... Competes in NWA-

Upstate, CHIKARA, NEW, 2CW, and elsewhere ... Tag team specialist sometimes wrestles under his surfer persona as "Totally Gnarly" Cloudy.

381 SEXXXY EDDIE (6'1", 195, 10, NL) Creepy IWA: Mid-South competitor could be considered the illegitimate spawn of "The Todd" from *Scrubs* and "Quagmire" from *Family Guy* ... You could add some Val Venis in there, too ... Says he comes from "Very Long Beach, California" ... Has some of the most disturbing ring gear in wrestling ... Widely traveled veteran calls his finishing move the "Total Sexstasy," a springboard reverse shooting star press splash ... Former IWS heavyweight champion and CZW junior heavyweight champion.

382 B.G. JAMES (6'2", 265, 16, 139) The former DeGenerate has cut back considerably on his in-ring activity and is assisting with backstage duties in TNA ... Defeated former partner Kip James at Lockdown 2008 ... Competed in the Feast or Fired match at Final Resolution 2008 ... Highest-profile match this year was his January 8 *Impact* clash with Kurt Angle, which he lost despite a valiant effort ... "Road Dogg" still has some bite, but he has slowed considerably ... Pumphandle slam and DDT are still effective.

383 G.Q. GALLO (6'2", 225, 9, NL) Won the NWA-Arizona/IZW heavyweight championship in July 2008 ... Restored his claim to those belts by beating Derek Neikirk in a violent TLC match when the titles were declared vacant ... Based in Arizona but competes throughout the West Coast, including California and Oregon ... Feuded with longtime Native Blood partner The Navajo Warrior, but the two have since reunited ... Has also formed an intergender tag team with Erica D'Erico ... Has wrestled WWE dark matches in Phoenix.

384 TRENT ACID (5'11", 180, 14, 378) Former Backseat Boy (with Johnny Kashmere) has competed in Pro Wrestling Unplugged, Jersey All Pro Wrestling, and many other promotions throughout the Northeast ... Actually has something in common with Bart Gunn, as he was kayoed by Butterbean in Pro Wrestling Syndicate ... Outspoken and controversial, this high-flyer is known for risking life and limb to steal the show ... Finishing moves are the Acid bomb and the yakuza kick.

369 TO 384

pwi500

385 Egotistico Fantastico

(6'3", 224, 8, NL) Unorthodox masked man is on a winning streak in CZW ... Won CZW's Best of the Best 9 tournament in June, defeating Drew Blood in a singles match, Devon Moore and Shiima Xion in a three-way match, and Sami Callihan in the finals ... Defeated Ryan McBride for the CZW junior heavyweight title on May 9 ... Wacky lucha aficionado calls his version of the Tombstone piledriver "The Taco Bender" ... Was formerly under a WWE developmental contract, but was released in early-2008.

386 DAN ECKOS

(5'8", 169, 7, 423) Kid brother of Rob Eckos is one-half of The Heavyweights with Sean Royal in the ECWA and one-half of the Blowout Boys with Tommy Trouble in Chaotic Wrestling ... Has some serious body image delusions, claiming he is 6'2" tall and weighs 420 pounds ... Former ECWA tag team champion and Mid-Atlantic champion ... Extremely popular with ECWA fans who love his flexing and happy-go-lucky attitude ... Has feuded with The Chick Magnets and The Valedictorians.

387 ANTONIO THOMAS

(6'1", 235, 8, 398) Former WWE competitor won the prestigious New England Championship Wrestling Iron 8 tournament in May ... Won a four-man, 45-minute Ironman bout in the finals, defeating Brandon Locke, Maverick Wild, and Kenny Doane for the trophy, which was awarded to him by Harley Race ... Previously teamed with Romeo Roselli as The Heartbreakers in WWE and OVW ... Also competed in Ring of Honor this year, and has previously appeared in TNA.

388 JIM DUGGAN

(6'3", 280, 31, 377) WWE's most popular patriot is middle-aged and crazy, and still swinging his 2x4 ... Had a brief feud with Ted DiBiase Jr. and Cody Rhodes when they insulted him and called for him to retire ... Competed in the 2009 Royal Rumble ... Had a recurring role on the wwe.com program *Top Rope Theater* with Cryme Time ... The former U.S. champion is a WWE institution ... Still packs a mean right hand and a high-impact flying tackle.

389 MATT BURNS

(5'11", 230, 7, NL) Big, bald, and bad-tempered, Burns teams with Asylum as The Flatliners ... Flatliners are wide-



Photo by George Napolitano

ly considered to be the top tandem in Ontario and have held more than 10 championships throughout the province ... Also held the PWX Toronto Xtreme title ... Comes off the top rope with a variety of innovative and painful moves, including a version of The Lungblower as Asylum holds the helpless victim and Burns lands a nasty top-rope spike DDT.

390 KUNG FUNAKI

(5'10", 192, 19, 393) The former "Smack-down Number One Announcer" got a career rebirth when R-Truth discovered Funaki's first name was "Kung" ... Has been "kung fu fighting" ever since ... Former member of Kaientai has been with WWE for 11 years ... Biggest wins of the past year were over a slumping MVP ... Though he's largely being used in a comedic role, the former cruiserweight champion is still a capable and formidable competitor ... Adopted a Karate Kid-style crane kick.

391 NATE BASH

(6'1", 202, 5, 405) Dubbed "The Popular," Nate Bash is one of the top cruiserweights in the Midwest ... Known for his flowing dreadlocks ... Has recently begun incorporating more mat wrestling tactics in with his aerial repertoire, which has made him a better-rounded competitor ... Teams with Benjamin Sailer as Midwest Ground & Air ... Has singles wins over Danny Daniels, Austin Aries, and Arik Cannon ... Pet finisher is the Michinoku driver or a cross-body off the top rope.

392 KEVIN GRACE

(5'8", 190, 8, 391) Western New York tag team specialist (and member of the All-Knights) had a breakout singles year, holding the NWA Empire "Lord Of The Dance" three-way dance title and the Next Era Wrestling heavyweight title ... Defeated Jonny Puma, Mastiff, and Chris Cooper in a four-way elimination match for the NEW title ... Particularly popular with teenage girls who love his dancing entrances, flashing sunglasses, and earrings.



393 CHRIS MORDETZKY

(6'5", 270, 7, 223) The former Chris Masters has acquitted himself quite well on the independent circuit and internationally since being released by WWE in 2007 ... Won his first singles championship in 2008, reigning for three months as the WLW heavyweight champion ... Has made successful tours of Australia and New Zealand ... His vaunted Masterlock is still effective, but Mordetzky has also improved his footwork, counter-wrestling, and added a vicious inverted DDT to his arsenal ... A WWE return appears to be in the works.

394 DANNY DANIELS

(5'9", 220, 12, NL) Protégé of Al Snow is the current SCW Iowa heavyweight champion and one of the most decorated wrestlers in the Midwest ... Had a brief stint as a referee in the original ECW early in his career, and was part of The Carnage Crew in ROH in 2004 ... Has had major feuds against Jimmy Jacobs, Zero Gravity, and Marek Brave ... Strong-style bruiser has several piledriver variations in his arsenal and knows many ways to drop opponents on their head.

395 RYAN MCBRIDE

(5'10", 185, 3, 472) Nicknamed "Hotshot" and hails from Boston ... Has held the CZW junior heavyweight title ... Signature moves include the dropsault and his backsault double-kneedrop ... Competes for CZW, MCW, EWA, and several other promotions ... Frequently teams with Teddy Stigma ... Fearless high-flyer known for his daredevil topes and dives ... Has plenty of flash, but has also been known to get hardcore and isn't squeamish when it comes to barbed wire and steel chairs.

396 SABU

(6', 220, 24, 250) The "Human Highlight Reel" has long been plagued by injuries, but remains a cult hero and a very dangerous competitor ... Still wrestles with his trademark daredevil style and risks his own welfare to inflict punishment on others ... Has been wrestling extensively in Puerto Rico in recent

385 TO 400

months ... Scored a big win over Steve Corino and Elijah Burke in a three-way hardcore match in December 2008 in the World Wrestling Council.

397 ZAQUARY SPRINGATE III

(6'5", 238, 13, NL) Snobby Brit from Ramsgate, Kent, competes for 2CW, Garden State Wrestling, and the Apocalypse Wrestling Federation in Toronto ... Won the AWF heavyweight title in May by winning a 13-man battle royal which included Joey Knight, Kevin Grace, Jonny Puma, Pepper Parks, and Mastiff ... Trained by Killer Kowalski ... His Briton Bomb finisher is an iron claw/choke-slam combo made even more effective by his height ... Has competed throughout Canada, the U.S., and England.

398 JOHN MCCHESNEY

(5'10", 182, 7, 350) Four-time IWC Super Indy champion has been competing throughout Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New York ... Feuded with Brodie Lee and Cody Deaner this year, earning victories over both men ... High-flyer is equally adept at competing as a fan favorite as well as a heel, depending on his mood ... Recently adopted the nickname "Big League" ... Has earned wins over Christopher Daniels and C.M. Punk ... Thrills fans with his missile dropkicks and suicide dives.

399 JERRY LAWLER

(6', 240, 39, 380) "The King" came out from behind the announcers' table several times over the past year, squaring off against Kane, Cody Rhodes and Ted DiBiase Jr., and Chris Jericho ... Scored a singles win over Sid Vicious in November 2008 at the Tennessee Fairgrounds Sports Arena ... Continues to compete on the independent circuit and still packs one of the best right hands in the business ... Incredibly, he has yet to compete at a WrestleMania ... Maybe 'Mania 26 will be his big moment.

400 BENJAMIN SAILER

(5'10", 205, 6, 413) "The Professional" experienced a career highlight in November 2008 when he beat Arik Cannon to become the first Heavy on Wrestling heavyweight champ before more than 1,000 fans ... Mick Foley served as the guest ref for that bout ... Teams with Nate Bash to form Midwest Ground and Air ... The team has not suffered a loss in Minnesota since 2006 ... Submission master also has a devastating array of suplexes in his bag of tricks.

pwi500

401 DARIN CORBIN (5'10", 200, 5, NL) One-half of the controversial North Star Express with Ryan Cruz ... Team twice beat The Motor City Machine Guns for the AAW tag title ... Missed two months of action after suffering a knee injury ... Teamed with Cruz and Arik Cannon as the F1rst Family in the CHIKARA King of Trios tourney ... Wrestled singles matches against Jerry Lynn, Scotty 2 Hotty, Austin Aries, and Matt Cross this year ... Managed by Joey Eastman.

402 GREG SPITZ (6'2", 219, 9, NL) Hated by both the fans and his fellow wrestlers, and he wouldn't have it any other way ... Reigning World-1/WWA heavyweight champion ... Pathological liar claims he invented the piledriver, was asked to be the fourth member of The Freebirds, and that he turned down a multi-million-dollar WWE deal ... Has scored singles wins over Samoa Joe and Steve Corino ... Finisher is the cradle piledriver (invented by Karl Gotch).

403 ICEBERG (6'1", 450, 6, 406) The mountain of a man hails from "Places Men Fear To Tread" and is known by the decidedly Lovecraftian sobriquet, the "Being Of Inconceivable Horror" ... Protégé of Abdullah the Butcher held the NWA-Anarchy heavyweight title until losing to Shadow Jackson in December 2008 ... Recently became a fan favorite for the first time in four years after a falling out with manager The Reverend Dan Wilson and the rest of The Devil's Rejects ... Looking to win the NWA TV title and NWA National title ... Has competed in Japan, Puerto Rico, TNA, and numerous NWA territories.

404 SEAN ROYAL (5'10", 159, 6, 432) Diminutive East Coast Wrestling Association competitor is one-half of The Heavyweights, along with Dan Eckos ... When he's not pumping iron or in the ring, he's actually a school teacher in Connecticut ... Former ECWA tag team champion ... Hails from "The Weight Room" ... Popular fan favorite has feuded with The Chick Magnets, Leather 'n' Lace, and The Valedictorians.

405 PHIL ATLAS (5'10", 194, 5, 467) Talented high-flyer is a graduate of the Can-Am Wrestling School in Windsor ... Trained by Scott D'Amore,

Alex Shelley, and Joe E. Legend ... Also trained at the All Japan dojo under Kaz Hayashi ... Has competed on WWE Heat against Snitsky and on Smackdown against Vladimir Kozlov ... Teamed with Petey Williams in the All Japan junior tag team league tournament ... Holds wins over Johnny Devine, Nunzio, and Kiyoshi ... Finishes opponents with the Tiger facebuster and Career Killer #3.

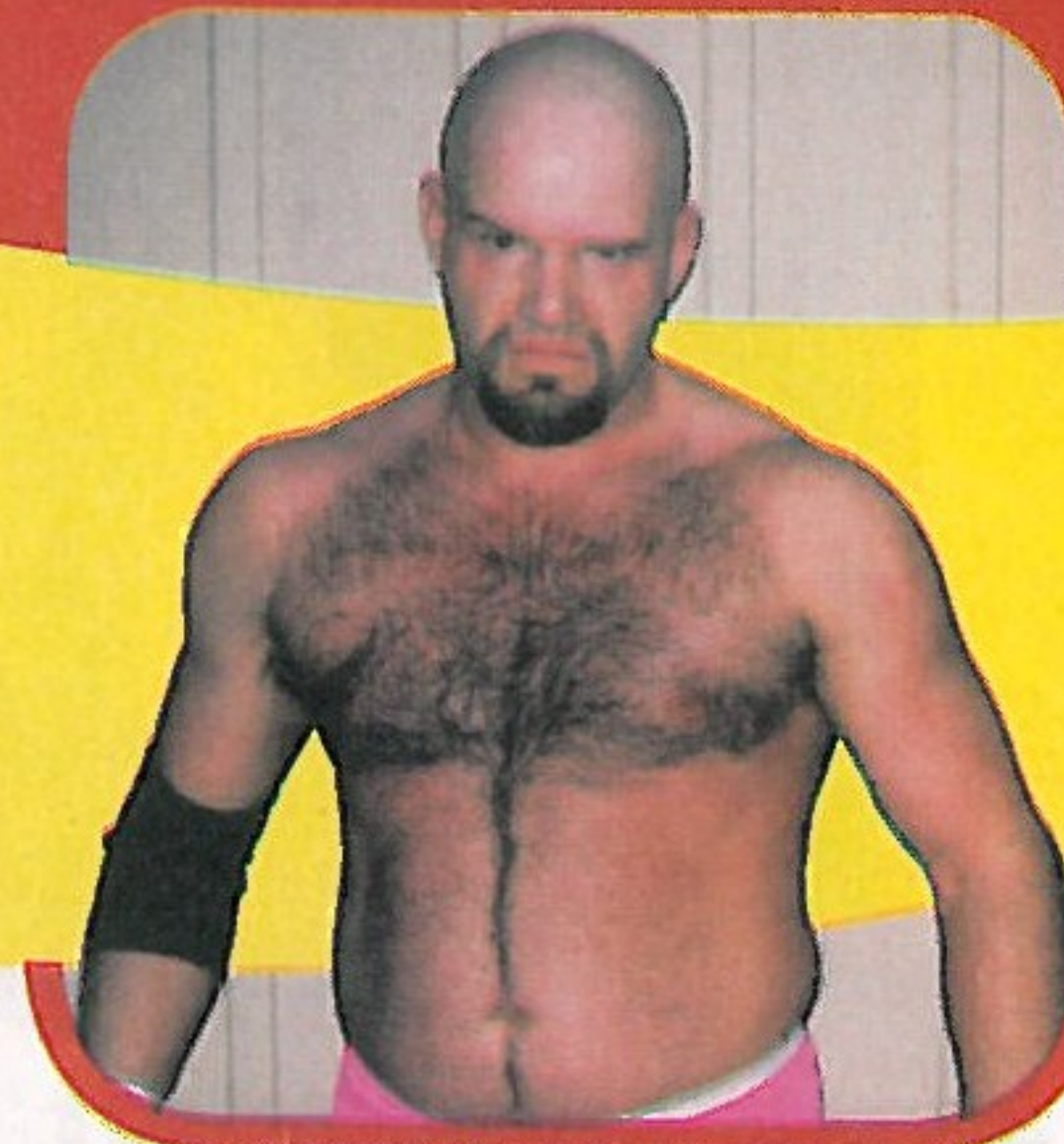
406 LESLIE LEATHERMAN (6'5", 275, 11, 415) The big man continues to wage war on former stars, including Jake Roberts, Kevin Nash, The Barbarian, and Demolition Ax ... Recruited WWE Hall of Famer Johnny Valiant as his manager ... Held the CPW heavyweight title and the CPW tag title with Jake Davis ... Main finishing moves are the Leatherman Death Drop (a modified Samoan drop) and the Leatherman Leglock (banana split submission) ... Often works WWE dark matches in the mid-Atlantic area.

407 MARK MERCEDES (6'2", 246, 15, NL) The "Count Of Wrestling" is the reigning IWA (Sydney, Australia) heavyweight champion ... Cut his teeth in WCW and was trained in part by Dean Malenko ... Rugged competitor is technically sound and extremely physical ... Refuses to compete on house shows in order to keep himself rested and ready for televised title defenses ... Also known as "The Burger-Eating Bully" for his dietary choices and the way he treats people, and he considers that a compliment.

408 KIRBY MACK (5'11", 188, 9, 454) "Krazy K" teams with his brother, T.J. Mack, as Team MackTion ... Goes by the moniker "Your New Addiction" and was trained by Matt and Jeff Hardy ... Holds the record for the longest AWA light heavyweight title reign ... Faced Jeff Hardy in Hardy's infamous ROH debut ... Signature moves include the OverDoZe reverse DDT legdrop and the up-and-over backcracker ... Former SCW Extreme champion.



Photo by Timothy Walker



409 BRAD MARTIN (5'11", 207, 5, NL) Broadened his horizons this year by touring with All Japan Pro-Wrestling, where he faced Kaz Hayashi and El Samurai ... Native of Essex, Ontario, trained under Scott D'Amore, Joe E. Legend, and Alex Shelley ... Finisher of choice is the Quesadora stunner ... A former Great Canadian Wrestling Ontario Independent champion ... Won that title in a three-way match against Xtremo and Phil Atlas, but dropped the belt to Tiger Star in January.

410 COLIN DELANEY (5'10", 172, 6, 400) Former ECW whipping boy is doing quite well on the Northeast indy scene ... Calls himself the "Extremely Cute Wrestler" these days ... Won both the NWA-Empire heavyweight and tag titles ... Teamed with Vin Gerard and Stygma to make it to the semifinals of the CHIKARA's King of Trios tourney ... Has scored wins over fellow former ECW alumni Stevie Richards and Little Guido ... Also began teaming with real-life brother Ed Delaney.

411 RYAN CRUZ (5'8", 182, 5, NL) Ryan Cruz is a two-time AAW tag team champion with Darin Corbin ... Cruz and Corbin comprise the team The Northstar Express ... The Express has also held the 3XW, MPW, and NOW tag team titles ... Highlights from the past year include a big win over The Motor City Machine Guns, as well as wins over The Phoenix Twins ... Advanced to the second round of the 2009 CHIKARA King of Trios tourney with partners Corbin and Arik Cannon ... Finishers are the Boom Shaka-Laka power bomb driver and Cruz Control Alabama slam/splash combo.

412 JONNY PUMA (5'11", 210, 8, 412) After a run as a fan favorite, the ever-obnoxious Puma is back in his natural element as a heel ... Based in Western New York and Southern Ontario ... Currently feuding with Brodie Lee for the Next Era Wrestling Central heavyweight title ... Also feuded with Colin Delaney, Pepper Parks, and Kevin Grace this year ... A natural brawler, Puma usually puts opponents away with his Jonny-on-

the-Spot finisher, a reverse Russian legsweep ... Moonlights as an accomplished stand-up comedian.

413 VANCE NEVADA (5'11", 223, 16, NL) "Mr. Beefy Goodness" is still driving the "Midnight Meat Train" through the Canadian Maritimes ... Wrestled his 1,200th career match in October 2008 ... Defeated Seth Knight to win the All Star Wrestling Trans-Canada title and has defended that championship from Vancouver Island to St. John's, Newfoundland ... Recently wrote a book entitled *Wrestling In The Canadian West* to be released by Crowbar Press ... Dedicated student of the game ... Beloved on Canada's west coast, but booed elsewhere.

414 FREAK NASTTY (6', 220, 6, 416) The East Coast Wrestling Association powerhouse was at the center of the promotion's most engrossing storyline of last year: Who injured Freak Nastty? ... Even ECWA promoter Jim Kettner was on the list of suspects ... Nastty tricked manager Magnum into revealing he was responsible for the sneak-attack, and Magnum fainted in fear ... Intense competitor holds an ownership stake in ECWA and has a way of making enemies ... Former ECWA heavyweight champion.

415 ROBIN KNIGHTWING (5'8", 208, 12, 386) "The Sexy Monkey" continues to be one of the wildest, most entertaining performers on the indy circuit ... Spent a good portion of the past year touring the United Kingdom, wrestling up to three shows a day, seven days a week ... Defeated Paul Tyrell to win the UWA heavyweight title ... He and All-Knighter partner Joey Knight feuded with England's Zebra Kid and Zac Beavis ... Dabbled in cross-dressing when he dressed as a woman to face Derek Wyld and Tyler Turva in a weird three-way match in Ontario.

416 T.J. MACK (5'10", 178, 8, 461) One-half of Team MackTion, along with brother Kirby Mack ... Known as "The Encore," he also previously competed as the nerdy Dexter Poindexter ... Aggressive high-flyer was trained by the Hardys, and he and Kirby are frequently compared to Matt and Jeff ... Former AWA tag team champion and former AWA light heavyweight champion ... Frequently uses a cravat neckbreaker he calls The Encore as well as a jumping Yakuza kick dubbed the Sparta Kick.

401 TO 416

pwi500



Photo by Joe Zanolle

417 THE STRO (6'1", 250, 21, 414) Former WCW competitor is still going strong in the Mid-Atlantic ... Became a two-time NWA-MSW heavyweight champion with a win over Jason Kincaid ... Currently a fan favorite and was named Most Popular and Wrestler of the Year by NWA-MSW fans ... Also operates a wrestling school ... Will appear in two upcoming horror films ... Main finisher is the bearhug DDT ... A submission specialist known for his cloverleaf and crossface ... Perennial contender for the NWA title.

418 FREDERICK OF HOLLYWOOD

(6'2", 255, 7, 317) Formerly known as "Bone Crusher" Fred Sampson, he has had a career resurgence since reinventing himself as the flashy Frederick of Hollywood ... Held the ECWA heavyweight title from July 2008 through November 2008, then dropped the belt to Tommy Trouble ... Has slumped somewhat in recent months ... Powerhouse batters opponents with his tilt-a-whirl backbreaker and Northern Lights suplex but favors his trusty running power-slam as his finisher of choice ... Managed by Magnum.

419 CONRAD KENNEDY III (6'1", 224, 9, NL) The Greenwich, Connecticut, native competes for Border City Wrestling and the Insane Clown Posse's JCW ... Arrogant rulebreaker also wrestles throughout Michigan and Ohio ... Has also wrestled in Ring of Honor ... Finishes opponents with the Chump Change ... Says he is "The Man With Talent On Loan From God" ... Competed on *WWE Heat*, losing to "Hacksaw" Jim Duggan ... Trained by Casey Nelson, Scott D'Amore, and Joe E. Legend.

420 ZACH GOWEN (5'11", 155, 7, 443) The former WWE sensation is still keeping busy on the Detroit independent scene ... Continues to inspire fans by achieving his childhood dream, despite having lost a leg to cancer at the age of 8 ... Based in Border City Wrestling but has made occasional appearances in ROH ... Seemingly beat Matt Cage for the Great American Wrestling Central States title in January, but the match was ruled a no-contest due to outside interference ... Has one of the most impressive moonsaults in wrestling.

421 JOEY KNIGHT (5'8", 202, 12, 388) "The Joe-verine" is one-half of The All-Knighters with Robin Knightwing (and sometimes member Kevin Grace) ... Feuded with Charlie Rage during a U.K. tour over who had the better role in *The Dark Knight* (both had minor parts in the film) ... Also feuded with "Wonderkid" Johnny Storm and Paul Tyrell in England ... Helped re-start the Apocalypse Wrestling Federation in Toronto ... Known for his high-energy dancing ring entrances and his trademarked Top Rope Swim in the corner.

422 BIG ROCCO (6'3", 405, 11, NL) The gargantuan security guard went from working for the Main Event Mafia to being Mick Foley's handpicked protector ... He and partner Sally Boy also team as Phi Delta Slam ... Goes by "Big Tilly" when he's up to his fratboy hijinx ... Based in South Florida and competes for Coastal Championship Wrestling in addition to TNA ... Big man does huge amounts of damage with his Hell Week legdrop and devastating frog splash.

423 TOMMY TROUBLE (6', 200, 7, NL) The "American Bad Boy" is a former East Coast Wrestling Association heavyweight champion and has competed in USA Pro, Chaotic Wrestling, and in WWE dark matches ... Graduated from Kevin Knight's Camp IWF and began wrestling at the age of 15 ... Mat-based technician softens up opponents with standing dropkicks and leg lariats before ending matches with a reverse face crusher ... Previously managed by ECWA's resident would-be coach Jim Shorts.

424 THE SHEIK (6', 252, 11, NL) Pro Wrestling Fusion brawler previously wrestled as Joey Machete before receiving permission from Sabu to use the name The Sheik ... Reigned as PWF heavyweight champion from May 2008 through February 2009 ... Had a violent feud against Savio Vega in Puerto Rico's IWA, which culminated in a bloody Globe of Death match in front of more than 8,000 fans ... Faced Kevin Sullivan in a weird Extreme Christmas Tree match ... Currently holds the PWF tag title with Christopher Gray.

Photo by Joe Zanolle



425 GRIM REEFER (5'9", 170, 10, NL) Unorthodox cruiserweight puts his body on the line with dangerous suicide dives and other high-risk moves off the ropes ... Hails from the South Side of Queens and competes in Jersey All-Pro, CZW, and several other promotions in the Northeast ... Wild-eyed street thug mixes acrobatic dives and evasions with stiff chops ... Is an expert at using the ropes to his advantage, suplexing opponents from the ring to the floor and snapping their necks with a hotshot on the way down ... His Tope Con Hilo is risky, but a thing of beauty when properly executed.

426 ANDREW RYKER (6', 205, 8, 331) Former ECWA fan favorite returned to the ring in January after announcing his retirement last year, but he returned with a rotten attitude ... Calls himself "A-List" Andrew Ryker and has signed Magnum as his manager ... He has also hired his own personal press agent and ring announcer ... Has feuded with Freak Nasty since his return.

427 SILAS YOUNG (5'11", 190, 7, NL) The NWA-Midwest heavyweight champion has become a regular on Midwest-based Ring of Honor events ... Has appeared on several ROH PPVs ... The Green Bay native also competes in AAW in Chicago and NWA-Insanity/ICW in Milwaukee ... Has held the MAW tag team title with Zach Gowan ... Finishing moves include the 450 splash, standing shooting star press, and the zero gravity.

428 KORY CHAVIS (6'4", 234, 11, NL) Chavis and Dark City Fight Club tag team partner Jon Davis recently earned a spot on the Ring of Honor tag team roster ... Based in Florida ... Known as

the "Soul Assassin" ... Previously competed in ROH in 2004 as Rainman ... Finishers include the Three Seconds Around the World, the Dark City Street Cutter, the Dark City Driver, and the Project Mayhem ... Has a devastating Spinesplit sit-out spinebuster.

429 BRANDON THOMASELLI (5'9", 189, 6, NL) Became a two-time Elite Pro Wrestling TV champion in July 2008 when he defeated J.D. Hughes ... Successfully defended that title against Martin Jones but lost the belt in November 2008 to Mustafa Ali ... A former IWA: Mid-South light heavyweight champion ... Known as "The Impact Bully" ... Often teams with his brothers, Vito and Sal ... Has competed in the 2005, 2006, and 2007 Ted Petty Invitation tournaments but has yet to make it past Round One.

430 PAPADON (6', 227, 10, NL) Jersey All-Pro standout had a cameo appearance in *The Wrestler* ... Completed a tour of the United Kingdom in February where he feuded with Nick "Brutus Magnus" Aldis ... Defeated Jerry Lynn for the NYWC Interstate title ... Teams with Havok as "The Solution" ... Has also competed in ROH, WXWC4, and NWA Shockwave (where he held the heavyweight title) ... Trained under Homicide at the Doghouse Dojo in Brooklyn and under Mikey Whipwreck at the NYWC school.

431 KING KALUHA (6'1", 248, 27, NL) Veteran competitor has held more than 20 championships during his career, including the ZERO1 U.S. heavyweight title, 3KWrestling title, and the NCW title ... A cult hero in the Northeast, he is referred to by his peers as "The Godfather" and "The Legend" for his experience, knowledge, and willingness to work with younger wrestlers.

432 JON DAVIS (6', 249, 6, NL) One-half of the Dark City Fight Club with Kory Chavis ... Made his Ring of Honor debut in January at Proving Grounds as he and Chavis wrestled a hard-fought bout against then-tag champions Kevin Steen and El Generico ... Now a regular member of the ROH roster ... Florida-based competitor favors a brawling, smash-mouth style, and nicely complements Chavis with a mat-based, ground-and-pound offense ... Tag team finisher is the Project Mayhem.

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Photo by Scott Finkelstein

433 JAKE O'REILLY (6', 215, 6, NL) "Fighting Irish" loves a good bare-knuckle fistfight as much as he enjoys a pint of Guinness or a shot of Jameson Irish Whiskey ... Southern Ontario native defeated Cody Deaner to win the PWX heavyweight title ... Also won the GCW Canadian National title with a win over Otis Idol ... Tough-as-nails brawler was trained by Eric Young at the New Japan USA dojo under Kendo KaShin ... Fighting is in his blood as his grandfather is a former bare-knuckle boxer.

434 JOHN E. BRAVO (6'1", 195, 11, NL) Native of Romulus, Michigan, was trained by Scott D'Amore, Doug Chevalier, and "Irish" Mickey Doyle at the Can-Am Wrestling School ... Based out of Border City Wrestling ... Has held both the Great Lakes Wrestling cruiserweight and tag team titles (with Jamie Cox) ... Wins matches with a huracanrana off the top rope ... Veteran competitor combines scientific wrestling prowess with agility and high-impact maneuvers ... Particularly skilled at reversals and counters, and has been known to win matches with an array of quick roll-ups and cradles.

435 AZRIEL (6'1", 248, 10, 394) Known as "The Good Guy," Azriel is based out of Jersey All-Pro Wrestling and is a three-time former JAPW lightweight champion ... Teamed with Dixie to win the JAPW tag team title in December 2008 and held that championship for more than three months ... Has held the JAPW tag team title with TNA star Jay Lethal ... Also competes for ACE in New Jersey, where he helps train wrestling students ... Mixes in martial arts strikes and throws with traditional pro wrestling techniques.

436 HAVOK (6'3", 270, 10, NL) Power-house from Brooklyn was trained by Afa Anoa'i and Laithon at the LIWF DogHouse ... Teams with Monsta Mack ... Previously teamed with Papadon as The Solution ... A former triple-crown champion in the LIWF ... Has also competed in Jersey All Pro Championship Wrestling, NWA-Cyberspace, NWA-Shockwave, and the New York Wrestling Connection ... Tag team specialist has competed against Team 3-D, the New Age Outlaws, and Demolition.

437 MICAH TAYLOR (5'10", 232, 5, NL) Former WWE developmental talent is competing in Global Championship Wrestling and won that promotion's heavyweight title in June ... Has successfully defended it against former TNA competitor David Young ... Surfer boy from Kailua, Hawaii, oozes confidence and style ... Previously held the Deep South tag title with Tony Santarelli ... Also held the Hawaii Championship Wrestling Kamehameha Heritage title ... Finishing move is the Wipe-Out.

438 SALLY BOY (6', 280, 21, NL) The man formerly known as Big Bruno in Phi Delta Slam got a fresh start as Kurt Angle's handpicked security team for the Main Event Mafia ... Struggled in the ring, suffering losses to Team 3-D, Eric Young, and Matt Morgan and was fired by Sting, only to be hired by Mick Foley ... Continues to compete as Phi Delta Slam on the Florida indy scene ... Prefers to end his matches with a sit-out DDT he calls The Initiation.

439 HIRAM TUA (6'1", 218, 5, 474) Had an apparent World Wrestling Council junior heavyweight championship victory snatched away from him by Ricky Reyes at WWC's "Hour Of Truth" event in Bayamon, Puerto Rico ... Per match stipulations, Tua was the first wrestler among the six competitors to grab the championship belt ... But Reyes took advantage of an unconscious referee to attack Tua, grab the belt and be declared champion ... Nevertheless, Tua remains a top contender for the title.

440 JON BOLEN (5'11", 260, 5, NL) Muscle-bound protégé of Scott D'Amore first made a splash by winning's TNA's "Gut Check Challenge" competition ... A TNA run never materialized, but Bolen has had success in Border City Wrestling and Ohio Valley Wrestling ... Held the NWA-Upstate Kayfabe Dojo heavyweight title ... Teamed with "Silverback" Ryan Reeves as High Dosage in OVW ... Former All-Conference and All-American nose guard at California University of Pennsylvania ... Became a powerlifter after college ... Signature move is a pumphandle slam.

Photo by Lee South/TNA Wrestling



433 TO 440

PWI 500

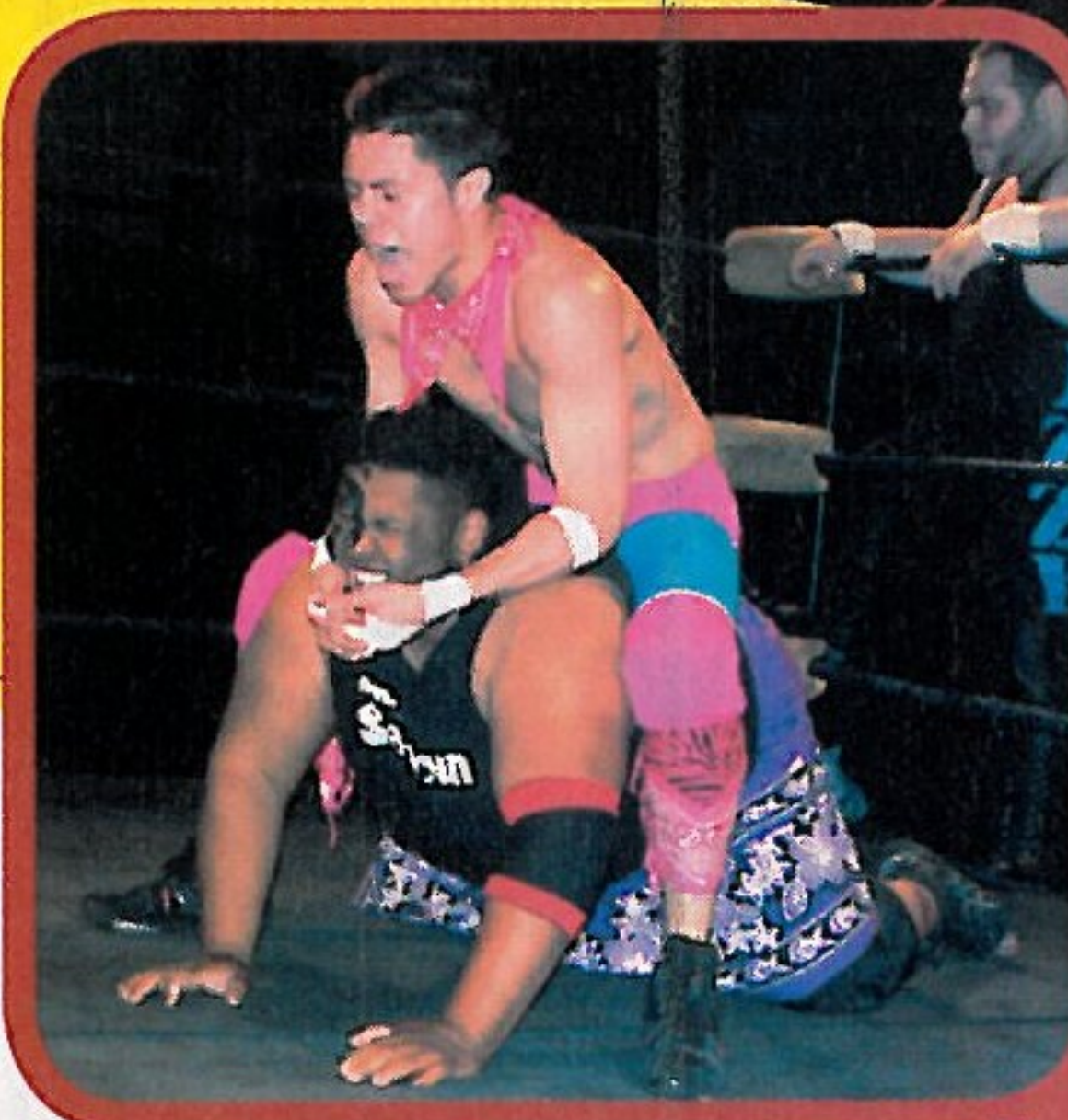
➔ 441 PINKIE SANCHEZ (5'8", 178, 2, NL) If the flamboyant refugee from "The Neverland Ranch" spent half as much time on his wrestling as he does on his dancing, he might be a world champion by now ... Okay, maybe that's an exaggeration ... Competed in both the Best of the Best tournament and the Tournament of Death in the same week in 2008 ... Had a violent feud against Drew Blood in CZW, with Sanchez ultimately coming out on top ... Challenged for the CZW junior heavyweight title, but was turned back by Ryan McBride.

442 JIMMY OLSEN (5'8", 186, 5, 468) The longtime partner of Colin Delaney didn't rest on his laurels as Colin went on to fame and fortune in WWE ... Olsen has been winning several championships, including CHIKARA's Young Lions Cup and the NWA-Upstate heavyweight title ... Had a major feud against Mastiff that pushed both men to the limits ... Formed a stable known as The Future Is Now with Lince Dorado and Helios in CHIKARA ... Extremely talented technical wrestler also loves to clown around with goofball antics.

443 Z-BARR (6', 203, 10, NL) It has been said that when Z-Barr enters, the fans leave ... Was voted Most Hated Wrestler by Pro Wrestling Unplugged fans ... Primarily competes in PWU and WXW, but also wrestles in several other Northeast indy promotions ... Works as a trainer at the PWU wrestling academy ... First-ever PWU TV champion ... Has earned singles wins over Steve Corino and John McChesney, and was previously managed by Tammy "Sunny" Sytch.

444 JEREMY WYATT (6', 204, 8, 449) Currently holds championships in three different promotions: the Lethal Wrestling Alliance, Pro Wrestling Phoenix, and 3XW ... Has successfully defended the LWA heavyweight title against Tyler Black, Dingo, and Arik Cannon ... Has also scored wins over Davey Richards and Sonjay Dutt ... Named 2008 Wrestler of the Year by Missouri Wrestling Revival and is one of the most booked wrestlers in the Midwest ... Finishes opponents with the Cropduster DDT (hammerlock leg sweep DDT).

Photo by Lyle Williams



445 BRANDON ESPINOSA (5'8", 15, 4, NL) "The" Brandon Espinosa is one-third of B.A.B.E. Watch with Brandon Aarons and Mike Sydal ... A native of St. Louis, Missouri ... Has held the CCW heavyweight, light heavyweight, and tag team championship, as well as the HCW Livewire title ... Has had a long-running feud against Greg Anthony and also has feuded with Dingo, Kahagas, and The Ego Express ... Main finishers are the reverse Unprettier and his version of the frog splash.

446 BRANDON LOCKE (6', 220, 5, NL) New England competitor hails from the Jersey Shore and competes in NECW and Chaotic Wrestling ... Recently turned his back on tag team partner Chase Del Monte in Chaotic Wrestling, drawing the ire of the fans ... Has been feuding with Del Monte over Del Monte's CW heavyweight title ... Finisher is called the Locke Down ... Nickname is "The Real Deal" ... Has also held the NECW TV championship.

447 ANGEL (5'10", 198, 4, NL) Has become extremely popular with Puerto Rican fans, especially after he defeated former WWC junior heavyweight champion Ricky Reyes in an action-packed bout ... Has subsequently been hot on the trail of Tommy Diablo in the battle for the junior heavyweight championship ... Angel suffered a setback in losing to Johnny Styles in a controversial match in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, but he has quickly regained his form ... Puerto Rican fans consider Angel to be both technically proficient and charismatic.

448 XTREMO (5'7", 180, 5, NL) Talented high-flyer has been earning rave reviews ... Based out of Toronto, but has also competed for Lucha Va Voom and CHIKARA ... Primary finishing move is the 450 splash, but he is also a master of reversals and can turn almost any move by an opponent into a pinning combination ... Voted High-flyer of the Year by Ontario fans ... Also received the Danger Boy Award of Excellence for being an outstanding Ontario wrestler, named after Derek Wylde.

Photo by Wayne McCarty



449 TIM STORM (6'4", 262, 15, NL) "The Grim Reaper" has competed in 38 states and three countries ... Storm has held the CWF heavyweight title six times and is a former PCW heavyweight champion ... Currently holds the PCW tag team title with James Johnson ... Has acquired the managerial services of Gen. Skandor Akbar in Traditional Championship Wrestling ... Uses the Osaka Street Cutter to set up his Perfect Storm spinning sideslam and his Eye of the Storm Roll of the Dice ... Has been compared to Arn Anderson.

➔ 450 DANNY HAVOC (6'1", 172, 4, NL) Hardcore specialist either feels no pain or seriously has a screw loose ... CZW Academy graduate won the 2008 CZW Tournament of Death match ... Has wrestled in virtually every type of insane match involving broken glass, barbed-wire, and light tubes ... Also won the IWA Deep South Carnage Cup and the CZW Ultraviolet Underground championship ... Is actually a very innovative grappler and not just a sadist ... Signature moves include a technically sound wrist-clutch DVD, a smooth double-underhook leg-capture DDT, and a thrilling corkscrew moonsault.

451 TRENT BERETTA (5'11", 207, 2, NL) Brash FCW competitor has been earning comparisons to Steve Corino and Gregory Helms ... Beretta has impressive aerial moves and has savvy ring presence, leading some to call the 21-year-old a wrestling prodigy ... Has a very effective tornado DDT ... Riles up opponents with trash-talking and claims he was able to ride a bicycle without training wheels at the age of three and that he beat Super Mario Bros. in under 15 minutes at age 12.

452 SLIM-J (5'8", 187, 8, 471) "The Real" Slim-J proves that the size of the fight in the dog is more important than the size of the dog in the fight ... The only "grand slam" title winner in NWA-Arena (Anarchy and Wildside) history, having held the heavyweight, junior heavyweight, tag team, and TV titles ... Became the first

NWA-Anarchy Young Lions champion and has become the standard-bearer for that division ... Scored a big win over Todd Sexton in a three-round "Knockout Or Tapout" bout ... Has added more of a MMA influence in recent months and uses "The Roach Clip" to make opponents say "I quit."

453 CHANCE PROPHET (6'2", 241, 10, 473) West Virginia native returned to the ring after suffering a shattered left ankle, which forced him to abdicate the NWA National heavyweight title in late-2007 ... Defeated The Juggulator for the All-Star Wrestling heavyweight title in a bullrope match ... Won the SWA/CWA Best of the Best tournament and became CWA Supreme champion ... Had several WWE tryouts ... Also won the UWA U.S. title but was forced to surrender the belt due to a scheduling conflict.

454 WILDSIDE (5'7", 200, 15, NL) Fifteen-year indy veteran is currently based in the Tennessee Independent Wrestling Federation, but has also competed in the MSA, KAW, and MCW ... Teams with Way Cool as The New Breed of Perfection ... Wildside is a former TIWF regional heavyweight, tag team, TV, and cruiserweight champion, and currently holds the tag title ... In the midst of a heated feud with the tag team known as Fuzion.

455 SEAN DAVIS (5'10", 360, 11, NL) The big man from Martha's Vineyard is one-half of Florida's Heartbreak Express, along with Phil Davis ... The team was actually banned from Panama after stomping on a Panamanian flag while touring that nation ... As a singles competitor, feuded with Chasyn Rance for I Believe in Wrestling's Florida heavyweight title ... Became the leader of Heartbreak Enterprises Inc. in Full Impact Pro, and hired Baby Doll as his personal assistant ... Has been feuding with Tyler Black, Roderick Strong, and Larry Zybszko.

456 WAY COOL (5'8", 198, 14, NL) The reigning TIWF heavyweight champion is also one-half of the TIWF tag team champions, The New Breed of Perfection, along with Wildside ... Tag team specialist has held 14 different tag championships over his career ... Calls himself "The One Cool Dude" ... Main finisher is called The Breeze, which is a version of the TKO ... Has been slowed by injuries but adopted a more mat-based methodical approach that has worked well.

441 TO 456

PWI 500

457 CORPORAL ROBINSON

(6'1", 225, 11, 470) Former United States Marine Corps corporal is the reigning JCW heavyweight champion ... Trained under Tracey Smothers ... Former IWA: Mid-South heavyweight champion and former Pro Wrestling Unplugged hardcore champion ... Showed up at TNA's Turning Point PPV in 2008, along with Scott Hall, and has said he plans to invade WWE and ROH events as well ... Proficient with his Boot Camp Cobra Clutch legsweep ... Hardcore specialist has been known to surprise opponents with a crisp huracanrana takedown.

458 TONY KOZINA

(5'6", 174, 12, NL) Widely traveled veteran is a former NWA junior heavyweight champion and a fixture throughout the West Coast ... Has been competing for Ring of Honor in recent months ... Known as "Tornado" for his impressive quickness and whirlwind offense ... Is especially skilled at springboard maneuvers and can bounce off—or over—the ropes in a variety of ways, leading to innovative strikes, kicks, or takedowns ... Adept at shifting his weight while being lifted to escape suplexes and slams, then quickly countering, with a roundhouse kick or inverted DDT.

459 PRINCE NANA

(5'11", 220, 13, 436) Nana just doesn't know the proper way to go about getting a job ... The self-proclaimed Ghanaian prince made his return to ROH claiming he had lost his riches and begged for a job, getting tossed out of the building ... This continued for several months until Nana announced that—thanks to President Obama's stimulus package—he was reforming The Embassy ... First-rate troublemaker is an underrated wrestler and former ECWA champion ... Has a dangerous double-underhook DDT.

460 ERIC EVERLAST

(6'4", 275, 11, 446) "The Exceptional Icon" is a protégé of the late Killer Kowalski ... Competes primarily for P6W in Rochester and PWA Niagara in Ontario ... Holds a black belt in judo ... Added a new chapter in his seven-plus-year feud with J.P. Black, challenging for Black's NEW heavyweight title ... Teamed with former ECW competitor H.C. Loc to face former partner Ron "Triple-X" Falco and Super Assassin ... Usually uses chokeslam or Olympic slam as his finisher of choice.



Photo by Joe Zanolle

461 RON FALCO

(5'10", 230, 7, 447) The bald "XXX" with the bad attitude is a two-time PWA Niagara champion ... Lost the belt to Jonny Puma, then regained it by putting Puma through an outdoor stage with a uranage ... Feuded with Brodie Lee for most of the year after Lee piledrived his manager, Mandi Stroyer ... Held the NWA-Upstate tag title (as XXX) with Star Cat ... Also feuded with Mastiff and The Notorious T.I.D. ... Barrel-chested powerhouse is both a tactician and brawler.

462 JON CUTLER

(6'3", 245, 7, NL) "Prime Cut" was the victim of a different kind of cut when he was released from his WWE developmental contract in late-June ... Winnipeg native had been assigned to FCW ... Lost the Premier Championship Wrestling heavyweight title to Kenny Omega in July 2008 ... Trained by Johnny Devine ... Agile competitor has an impressive flying elbowdrop ... Appeared in a 2007 play titled *Grudge Match* playing a wrestler, naturally.

463 PHIL DAVIS

(6'1", 275, 12, NL) "Fabulous" Phil teams with "Superstar" Sean Davis as The Heartbreak Express ... The team got in some hot water in October while touring Panama when they threw a Panamanian flag on the floor while being interviewed on a talk show, which is a crime in Panama ... That earned them some death threats and nearly landed them in the clink ... Florida competitor is a two-time Full Impact Pro tag team champion and has held the AWA tag title.

464 IGOTTA BREWSKI

(6', 250, 3, 491) Popular Ohio Valley Wrestling star gets pumped up by pressing beer kegs ... Milwaukee native is a high-energy mash-up of Bruiser Brody, Mighty Igor, Ivan Putski, The Ultimate Warrior, and The Bushwackers ... Explosive competitor has a vicious spear and likes to win matches fast enough to make it out by last call ... Held the OVW TV title from October 15, 2008, through November 26, 2008 ... Teamed with Fang to win the OVW Southern tag title in April.

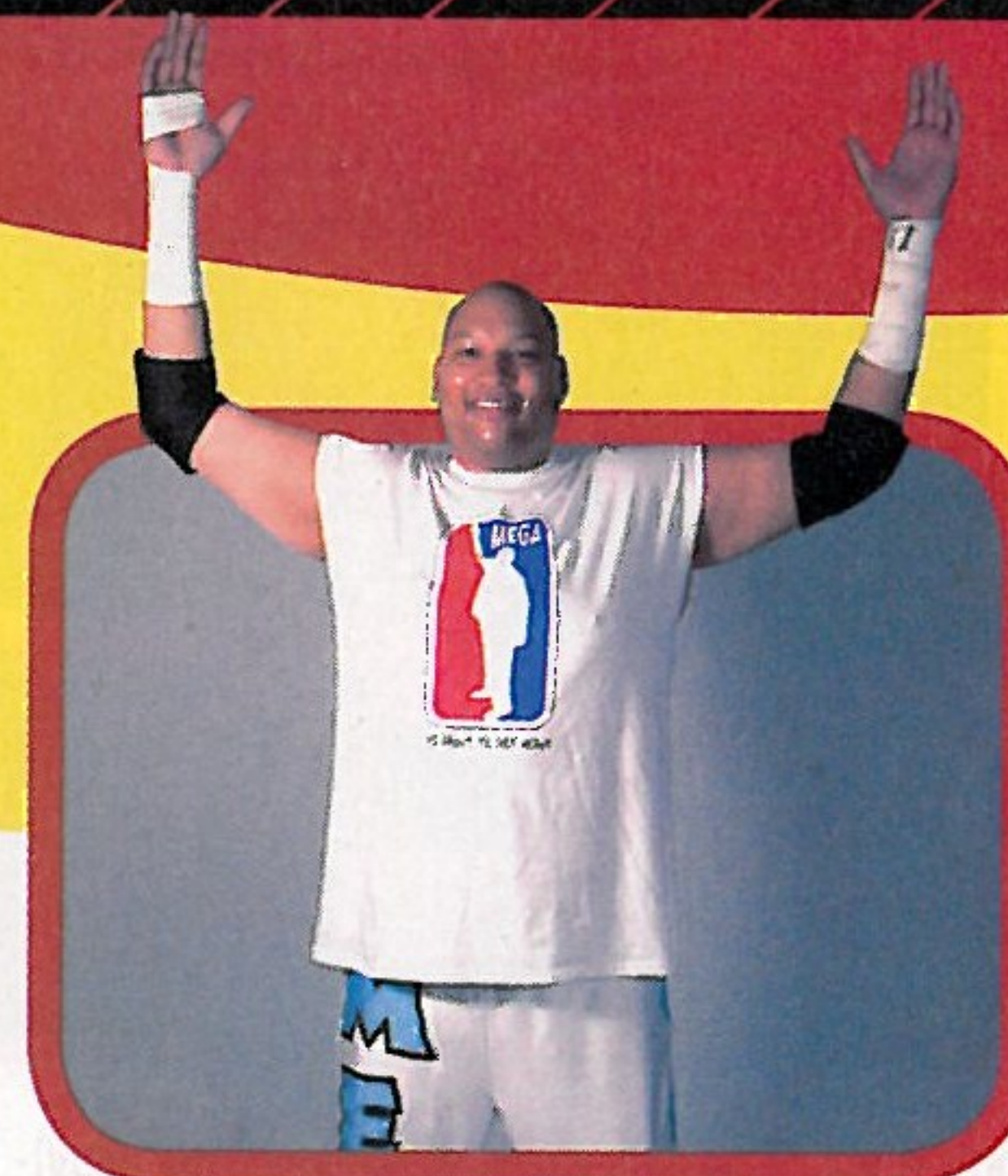


Photo by Joe Zanolle

465 BYRON SAXTON

(6', 215, 4, 336) Formerly known as Bryan Kelly, Saxton changed his name shortly after becoming a manager in FCW ... Splits his time between wrestling and managing his Saxton Conglomerate stable ... Was a traffic reporter in Jacksonville prior to signing with FCW ... Saxton is a former Southern Championship Wrestling tag team champion and USCW heavyweight champion ... Came out on the losing end of a feud against Sweet Papi Sanchez, a man he previously managed.

466 ROBBY STARR

(5'11", 219, 5, 465) After establishing himself as a dominant singles performer in multiple promotions in the Ohio Valley region, Starr has formed a tag team known as The Hi-Def Supernovas, along with "Hot Commodity" Matt Mason ... The team reigned for more than six months as the Ohio Championship Wrestling tag champions until losing the belts to The Clash in May ... Starr is OCW's only triple-crown winner, having held that company's heavyweight, tag team, and TV titles.

467 CHA CHA CHANCE

(6'2", 300, 2, NL) The big rookie with the happy feet is extremely popular in the ECWA ... Fans love to cha-cha chant along with him as he wiggles his way to the ring ... Trained in the Chaotic Training Center and the ECWA school ... Was actually inspired by the Charmin dancing bear ... Currently holds the ECWA tag title with Mega, which they won from Leather 'n' Lace ... Loves to throw his weight around (literally) with the Butt Splash and the Jumping Butt Bump.

468 KEN STEEL

(6'4", 272, 10, NL) Big, burly brawler is a throwback to the days when wrestlers looked like they stepped out of a saloon and right into the ring ... Straight forward streetfighter bashes opponents with powerful punches and chops ... Known as "The Machine," Steel is the reigning National Independent

457 TO 472

Championship Wrestling Pro heavyweight champion ... Also competes for American Championship Wrestling ... Old-school warrior never backs down from a challenge.

469 MEGA

(6'7", 400, 7, 429) Massive competitor holds the ECWA tag team title with Cha Cha Chance ... Gentle giant is a beloved mainstay on the Delaware circuit ... Slow to anger, but very quick to beat the tar out of someone who does anger him ... Boasts a crushing belly-to-belly suplex and a devastating big splash ... Enjoys at least a 150-pound weight advantage in most of his matches ... Big man can also bust a move, as his dancing with partner, Chance, brings the crowd to its feet.

470 JAMIE JAY

(6'1", 218, 6, NL) Third-generation competitor is following in the footsteps of his grandfather and mother ... Competes primarily in the Arkansas, Tennessee, and Mississippi regions ... Jay is the reigning PWA heavyweight champion ... Also works in NWA-Main Event and NWA-Battle Zone ... Wrestled a WWE dark match in 2005, but his career was sidelined after a broken leg and after taking time off to start a family ... Trained at Moondog Spot's wrestling school under Don Bass.

471 JON MOXLEY

(6'3", 220, 5, NL) Former Heartland Wrestling Association stand-out returned to the ring in July 2008 after being sidelined by health and personal issues for a year ... Escaped the mean streets of Cincinnati by enrolling in the HWA at the age of 17 ... Known for his dangerous and unpredictable (some would say paranoid) attitude and ring style ... Has been called a mix of Bryan Danielson and Brian Pillman ... Current Insanity Pro Wrestling heavyweight champion.

472 HOOK BOMBERRY

(5'8", 185, 8, 477) The man from "Porn Valley" has competed for virtually every major wrestling company in California, including Pro Wrestling IRON, Pro Wrestling Guerrilla, and Supreme Pro Wrestling ... Also wrestled in the invitation-only Cauliflower Alley Club wrestling event in Las Vegas ... Known for his lightning quick matwork and superior submission repertoire ... Prefers to remain grounded and avoid the sort of high-risk moves usually favored by wrestlers of his size.

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473 JOHNNY DYNAMO (6'1", 212, 6, NL) "The Natural" was trained by former NWA champion and MMA legend Dan Severn ... Held the Price of Glory (Michigan) heavyweight title four times, most recently losing the title in June to Severn in a career-vs.-career match ... It remains to be seen if Dynamo is done for good ... Has also held the PWL TV title, as well as several championships with partners Jack Thriller and Tommy Titus ... Uses a version of the Ace crusher as his main finisher, but also uses a double-arm DDT he calls The Dynamo Theory.

474 DAN MAFF (6', 250, 10, NL) Former Ring of Honor competitor is back in action after a brief retirement ... Defeated Jay Lethal in a steel cage match to win the Jersey All Pro Wrestling heavyweight title in June ... Making strides to regain the momentum he had back in his ROH heyday when he held the tag title with B.J. Whitmer ... Held the JAPW tag team title five times with Monsta Mack ... Powerhouse is a suplex master and has a lethal inverted Death Valley driver.

475 SHAWN CHRISTOPHER (5'9", 220, 14, NL) "Showtime" is an eight-time Hardcore Championship Wrestling heavyweight champion ... Infuriates opponents and fans alike with his cocky attitude and trash-talking ... Emerged victorious in a lengthy feud with Rick Morton of The Rock 'n' Roll Express ... Feuding with The American Eagle and HCW International champion The Zodiac ... Was the last heavyweight champion recognized by the Appalachian Wrestling Federation.

476 DONOVAN RUDDICK (6'9", 270, 4, NL) The big man from Jamaica, Queens, is a hit in the Midwest, where he has reigned for the past year as the High Voltage Wrestling heavyweight champion ... Has also successfully defended that title in Florida's CCW ... "The Future" is managed by The Magic Man ... Seeking to regain the Lethal Wrestling Alliance title from Jeremy Wyatt ... A sometimes dominant competitor with an admirable work ethic ... Calls his finisher The Iconoclast.

477 LUKE HAWX (6'1", 197, 10, 418) Former XPW, WSX, and NWA-Wildside has been competing in Louisiana, Georgia, Mississippi, and



Photo by George Napolitano

Texas ... Known as "The Southern Stomper," he previously went by the name Altar Boy Luke ... Recently appeared on ECW in a losing effort to Vladimir Kozlov ... Has also branched out into acting and stunt work and will be appearing in an upcoming film with Batista, Rob Van Dam, and King V ... Uses the halo-outside-in moonsault and a unique flying legdrop.

478 ROMEO ROSELLI (6'1", 221, 10, 374) Former Heart Throb has been keeping extremely busy, both inside and outside the ring ... Has dabbled in modeling and acting, appearing in *College Road Trip*, *Baby Mama*, *The Wrestler*, and on *Saturday Night Live* ... Returned to wrestling after a layoff following ACL reconstruction in October 2008 in Northeast Wrestling where he attacked Doink the Clown and interrupted a *Piper's Pit* segment, confronting Roddy Piper ... Former WWE wrestler has toured Europe and Puerto Rico and is a former WWC Puerto Rican champion ... Main finisher is a diving neckbreaker.

479 NAVAJO WARRIOR (6'2", 267, 18, 384) Veteran teams with Ghost Walker as Native Blood ... Based in Arizona, the Warrior competes throughout the Southwest and makes periodic appearances in Mexico ... Wrestled several matches for WWE through the 1990s ... Pays homage to his Native American ethnicity and fells opponents with his tomahawk chop ... Decorated wrestler has also had success as a trainer, training Mike Knox and The Hawaiian Lion ... Powerhouse has toured the world and is passing on his knowledge to his students.

480 MASTIFF (5'8", 205, 6, 478) "The Mastiff" Will Calrissian spent a good portion of the past year feuding with Jimmy Olsen ... Has competed throughout Western and Central New York and throughout Southern Ontario ... Talented technical competitor has shown a dark side, attempting to suffocate foes with a plastic bag ... Has had memorable feuds against Kevin Grace, Jonny Puma, and Cody Deaner ... Fisherman's buster and falling fireman's carry into a lung blower are his signature moves.



481 J.T. FLASH (6'1", 248, 2, NL) One-half of The Midnight Studs, along with Bobby Sanford ... Competed on *WWE Heat* last year in a loss to Snitsky, and had a WWE tryout in March ... Flash is a former Marine and played semi-pro football with the Lauderhill Rattlers ... Was recruited to play football overseas but instead decided to try his hand at wrestling ... Toured the Dominican Republic in February ... Held the ICW U.S. tag title with Sanford ... Occasionally managed by the notorious Princeton Gainey III.

482 MIKE SYDAL (5'9", 170, 2, NL) Kid brother of WWE star Evan Bourne is tearing things up in the Midwest ... One-third of the effeminate B.A.B.E. Watch faction, along with Brandon Aarons and Brandon Espinosa ... Has competed in Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Indiana, and Tennessee ... Much like his brother, Sydal is a tremendous aerialist with a stunningly explosive moonsault ... Rapidly improving wrestler is already showing signs of greatness and has looked spectacular in matches against Jimmy Rockwell and Mark Sterling.

483 JOSEF VON SCHMIDT (6'4", 260, 1, NL) Rookie hails from Hamburg, Germany, and competes in the Northeast and New England indies ... Made his pro debut in November 2008 with a win over Ian Griffin and has already feuded with The Patriot, Chris Forza, and Bull Dred ... Big, powerful Teuton likes to beat opponents with his German Hammer finisher ... "The Red Knight Of Germany" uses the Internet to spread anti-American vitriol (and sell merchandise).

484 CHRIS LEXXUS (5'11", 221, 1, NL) Rookie sensation has risen to the top in the Tennessee Independent Wrestling Federation, winning the promotion's television title on two occasions ... Incredible physical specimen has feuded with Frankie Tucker and P.K.

Ripper ... Currently chasing the TWF heavyweight title held by Devon Day ... Has also competed for NGW and EPPW ... Popular and athletic fan favorite has a bright future ... Finishing move is the Spinal Fusion, a jarring spinebuster.

485 GORDON P. SAMSONITE (6', 205, 4, NL) Two-time former B4W Fighting Athletes heavyweight champion is currently chasing Greg Spitz in search of his third championship reign ... Also hoping to win the first W-1 WWA championship tournament that is scheduled for later this year ... Known for his technical style and quiet and confident demeanor ... Has scored pinfall wins over former ECW champion Steve Corino and veteran King Kahlua ... Has earned high praise for his mat wrestling and counters.

486 NOTORIOUS T.I.D. (6'4", 275, 10, NL) The big man is one of the most feared and respected competitors on the Ontario independent scene ... Vicious brawler packs a mean wallop with the kendo stick, but can also do plenty of damage with his bare hands ... Scored a convincing win over "Bloody" Bill Skullion in a cage match in January ... Has also competed against New Jack, Cody Deaner, Madman Pondo, The Flatliners, and The Highlanders ... A master of intimidation.

487 STRANGLER DIEGO CORLEONE (6', 221, 8, NL) "The Stu Gotz Strangler" has held singles titles in the NBWA, NWA-Wisconsin, CCW, and HPW ... Hails from Corleone, Italy ... Personal highlight of the past year was returning to NBWA to beat "Bloody" Harker Dirge ... Methodical brawler with a sadistic streak ... Has competed against Spike Dudley, Shark Boy, and The Naturals, wrestling all over the Midwest ... Calls his finishing move The Sicilian Strangler.

488 RYBACK (6'1", 275, 5, NL) "The Sin City Cyborg" is back on the WWE payroll after being previously released by the company ... Bodybuilder got his start in wrestling through *Tough Enough* ... Known as "The Silverback" Ryan Reeves, he formed High Dosage with Jon Bolen in OVW ... Returned to OVW and unveiled his new *Terminator*-themed look (complete with one blue eye and one red eye), which caught the attention of WWE talent scouts ... Currently stationed in FCW ... Power merchant uses a vertical suplex/slam hybrid as his main finisher.

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489 PETER B. BEAUTIFUL

(6'3", 325, 10, NL) The ever-flamboyant big man is back in wrestling after taking a year off to try his hand at MMA ... Constantly proves that beauty is purely in the eye of the beholder, especially when he dons his skimpy, hot pink trunks ... Has wrestled throughout the Midwest, including Wisconsin, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, and Indiana ... Suffered a tough loss to Jake "The Snake" Roberts in June 2008 ... Signature finisher is a spinning fireman's carry Ace crusher that he calls The Facelift.

490 BOBBY SANFORD

(6', 7, 222, NL) "Lights Out" teams with J.T. Flash as The Midnight Studs ... Based in southern Florida, he is a former Indy Championship Wrestling U.S. tag champion and also competes in Coastal Championship Wrestling ... Trained by Marty Jannetty, he adopted a version of the Sweet Chin Music as his finisher, which he calls the Lights Out Kick ... Former collegiate track and field standout at Florida A&M University ... Career highlight to date was a tag match against Jimmy Snuka.

491 MARC MANDRAKE

(5'9", 240, 7, NL) "The Suicide Messiah" has relocated to Florida where he's raising hell in FWE, ACW, and WXW ... Hardcore specialist beat Torcher for the FEW bunkhouse title and beat Eric Cooper for Pro Wrestling Eclipse's Ultraviolet title ... Scored a big win over former TNA competitor Jerrelle Clarke ... Also holds a win over Jonny Puma in a cage match in upstate New York ... Managed by the beautiful Ferrari, who participated in the Awesome Kong open challenge in 2008.

492 LARRY ZBYSZKO

(5'11", 231, 36, 492) The self-proclaimed "Living Legend" is doing more than just serving as the pitchman for Morphoplex; he's still defending a version of the old AWA title ... Teamed with Chasyn Rance and Seth Springer to win the AWA six-man tag title ... Lost to NWA National champ Phil Shatter when Baby Doll interfered ... His autobiography, *Adventures In Larryland*, is going into a second edition ... Uses the sleeper as his main finisher, unless he has a roll of dimes handy.



493 BRIAN JENNINGS

(6'2", 225, 7, NL) The "Buffalo Bad Boy" claims his four favorite things are brawling, beer, broads, and Buffalo wings ... Jennings is one of the most popular wrestlers in the Midwest and held the HWA heavyweight championship for more than a year until dropping it to B.J. Whitmer ... Feuded with Jon Moxley throughout 2008 ... Has teamed with former WWE star Rosey and Metal Master ... Main finishers are his Peck Street Special (sharpshooter) and the Wide Right.

494 "BAD BOY" BARRY HARDY

(6'1", 230, 20, NL) Former WWF preliminary wrestler is best remembered as the original tag team partner of Duane "Gillberg" Gill, whom Hardy trained ... Currently based in Daytona Beach, but also competes on the Western New York indy circuit ... Scored a win over Eric Everlast for P6W in Rochester ... Has competed for the WWF, WCW, and ECW and faced everyone from Bob Backlund to Shawn Michaels during his career ... Old school veteran is tougher than shoe leather and not to be taken lightly.



489 TO 500

497 MATT RIVIERA

(6'2", 252, 5, 476) The man who claims to hail from "Your Dreams" is one-half of the Mid-South Pro tag champions, along with Jeff Jett ... Riviera also is the reigning TCW heavyweight champion ... Had a nasty feud with Wes Robinson that spilled over into several promotions throughout the mid-south area ... Has adopted a version of Arn Anderson's spinebuster as his finishing move, but also continues to use his One Night Stand (downward spiral variation) and the Matticure (camel clutch variation).

498 MIKAL JUDAS

(6'8", 318, 9, 463) The massive "Priest Of Punishment" was formerly known as Mikal Adryan before undergoing a metamorphosis in Puerto Rico's IWA, where he won the heavyweight title ... NWA mainstay recently debuted in TNA as one of Mick Foley's bodyguards, but a recent arrest after a locker room fight might put that spot in jeopardy ... Uses the chokeslam and crucifix power bomb as his pet finishers ... Has feuded with "The Butcher Of Pyongyang" Kimo for most of 2009, with neither man able to gain an advantage in the back-and-forth war.

495 MATT BOYCE

(6'1", 193, 3, NL) Nashville competitor is getting rave reviews, including from country music icon Brenda Lee, who has called him her "favorite wrestler" ... Boyce is the reigning NWA Mid-American TV champion ... Wrestles all over the Mid-South region ... Drew a turn-away crowd for a steel cage match against arch-rival Shane Williams in June ... Had a show-stealing match against Shawn Shultz at the Jerry Lawler 35th Anniversary show in Nashville, with a match that was said to have impressed "The King."

496 CRAZZY STEVE

(5'8", 185, 6, NL) Southern Ontario's resident madman can boast wins over Shawn Spears, Cody Deaner, Tyson Dux, and Derek Wylde over the past year ... The reigning Fighting Spirit Pro Wrestling Internet champion ... A three-time GCW tag champion (with Gutter, Robert Roode, and Jake O'Reilly) ... Hails from the "Black Hills Sanitarium" ... Frequently teams with Kamala ... Unorthodox fan favorite claws, bites, and surprises foes with some solid technical wrestling ... Top moves include the Shiny Giraffe (headscissors submission), STO, and top-rope DDT.

499 LAWMAN WILLIAMS

(5'9", 225, 17, NL) Burly and bald-headed, the Lawman brings his brand of justice to the Tennessee Independent Wrestling Federation ... Has been a Tennessee area mainstay for more than 15 years and has held that promotion's heavyweight championship a record 15 times ... Also an accomplished tag team competitor, having held the TIWF tag belts five times with five different partners ... Popular competitor is currently feuding with "Ruthless" Ron McClarity ... Primary finisher is a version of the Stone-Cold Stunner.

500 SHOCKWAVE THE ROBOT

(5'8", 185, 10, NL) Upstate New York native has become a hot property since "becoming a robot" two years ago ... Competed in Japan, where his match against Mecha Mummy has become a YouTube sensation ... Competed in AWF title tournament ... Recently added a keypad to his arm, allowing him to "reprogram" himself to wrestle in a non-robotic style if desired ... Has competed for more than 20 promotions, including ROH (before he turned robot) ... Signature moves are the Robot Legdrop and 450 splash.

FAREWELL TO THE 500

The list of active wrestlers is always changing. Since last year's "PWI 500" was published, some wrestlers have migrated to different federations or changed their names. Others are now injured, inactive, or retired. Still others have been dropped from this year's ranking for other reasons.

Keys are as follows: (D) deceased; (DL) disabled list throughout a major portion of this year; (I) inactive; (NC) name change; (NL) not listed; (R) retired.

Kurt Adonis (NL)	Diabolico (NL)	Kassidy James (NL)	Nunzio (NL)	Chris Stone (NL)
Ali Akbar (NL)	Domino (I)	Jeff Jeffrey (NL)	Nick Nemeth (NC)	Shane Storm (NL)
Omar Akbar (NL)	Ultimo Dragon (I)	Chris Joel (NL)	Naoya Ogawa (NL)	Supreme Lee Great (NL)
Red Anderson (NL)	Spike Dudley (NL)	Joker (I)	Olimpico (NL)	Kenzo Suzuki (NL)
Apocalypse (NL)	Kevin Dunn (NL)	Orlando Jordan (NL)	Jamin Olivencia (NL)	Larry Sweeney (I)
Mr. Aguila (NL)	Kenny Dykstra (NC)	Toshiaki Kawada (NL)	Omega (NL)	Rudy Switchblade (NL)
Robert Anthony (NC)	Ephesto (NL)	Kaz (NL)	Johnny Ova (NL)	Ryusuke Taguchi (NL)
Gran Apache (NL)	Armondo Estrada (I)	Bryan Kelly (NL)	Black Pain (NL)	Tajiri (NL)
Dre Blitz (NL)	Charles Evans (NL)	Ken Kennedy (DL)	El Pantera (NL)	Tank (NL)
Blitz (NL)	Felino (NL)	Dragon Kid (NL)	L.A. Park (NL)	TARU (NL)
Drew Blood (NL)	Fire Ant (NL)	Ron Killings (NC)	Paysan (NL)	Kevin Thorne (NL)
Sinn Bowdie (NC)	Ric Flair (R)	Kenny King (NL)	Eric Perez (NC)	Titan (NL)
Crazy Boy (NL)	Adam Flash (NL)	Kornbred (NL)	Pelle Primeau (NL)	Mike Tobin (NL)
Jay Bradley (NC)	Mozart Fontaine (NL)	KUDO (NL)	Puma (NL)	Player Uno (NL)
Tom Brandi (NL)	Rory Fox (NL)	Pinkie LaRue (NL)	Guy with Red Hair (NL)	Big Daddy V (NC)
Anthony Bravado (NL)	Derek Frazier (R)	Nate Laws (NL)	Black Reign (NC)	Hade Vansen (NL)
Elijah Burke (NL)	Tatsumi Fujinami (NL)	John Bradshaw Layfield (R)	Rellik (NL)	Ricky Vega (NL)
Ric Byrne (NL)	Minoru Fujita (NL)	Leono (NL)	Takeshi Rikio (NL)	Savio Vega (NL)
Chris Cage (NC)	Sho Funaki (NC)	Steve Lewington (NC)	Rikishi (NL)	Vito (NL)
Christian Cage (NC)	Marshall Gambino (NL)	Hawaiian Lion (NL)	Jorge Rivera (NL)	Black Warrior (NL)
Super Calo (NL)	Mickey Gambino (NL)	Lizmark Jr. (NL)	Billy Roc (R)	Mikey Whipwreck (R)
Scott Cardinal (NL)	Johnny Gargano (NL)	Low-Ki (NC)	Noel Rodriguez (NL)	T.J. Wilson (NC)
Carlitos (NL)	Kermon the German (NL)	Maifu (NL)	Richard Rondon (NL)	Worker Ant (R)
Victor Ceron (NC)	Joe Gibson (NL)	Curry Man (NC)	Crazy Rudy (I)	Scott Wright (NL)
Wade Chism (NL)	Shane Hagadorn (DL)	Charly Manson (NL)	Rycklon (NL)	Derek Wylde (R)
Masahiro Chono (NL)	Jake Hager (NC)	Greg Marasciullo (NL)	Mitch Ryder (NC)	Xavier (NL)
Eddie Colon (NC)	Kliff Hanger (NL)	Mean Marcos (NL)	Saifu (NL)	Masato Yoshino (NL)
Condor (NL)	Chris Harris (NL)	Ricky Marvin (NL)	Michael Sain (NL)	Judas Young (NL)
Rob Conway (NL)	Shayne Hawke (NL)	Chris Masters (NC)	El Sagrado (NL)	Scott Zenzen (NL)
Shawn Cook (NL)	Hardcore Holly (NL)	N8 Mattson (NL)	Zachary Shane (I)	Ron Zombie (NL)
Qeenan Creed (NC)	Hiromi Horiguchi (NL)	Milwaukee Mauler (NL)	Sheamus O'Shaunessy (NC)	
Cruzz (NL)	Lance Hoyt (NC)	Maximo (NL)	Robere Shields (NL)	
Atlas DaBone (NC)	Killer Hulk (NC)	Mephisto (NL)	Elix Skipper (NL)	
Andy Dalton (NL)	Larry Huntley (NL)	Heavy Metal (NL)	Shorty Smalls (NL)	
Damian (NL)	Hydra (NL)	Taka Michinoku (NL)	D.H. Smith (NC)	
Shawn Daivari (NC)	Hyjinx (NL)	Heath Miller (NC)	Soldier Ant (NL)	
Damián 666 (NL)	Wataru Inoue (NL)	Mitsuhara Misawa (D)	Brian Soscia (NL)	
Ace Darling (R)	Incognito (NL)	Devon Moore (NL)	Mister St. Laurent (NL)	
Nick Dinsmore (NL)	Intocable (I)	Trevor Murdoch (NC)	Phoenix Star (NL)	
Jimmy Demarco (NL)	Taku Iwasa (NL)	Abismo Negro (D)	Dylan Starr (NL)	
Deuce (NC)	Takashi Iizuka (NL)	Noriega (NL)	Teddy Stigma (NL)	